AN ACCOUNT OF SUEDEN.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AN ACCOUNT OF Denmark, AS It was in the Year 1692.

The Third Edition Corrected.

Printed for *Tim. Goodwin* at the *Queen's Head*, againſt St. *Dunſtan's* Church in *Fleet-ſtreet*, 1694.

AN ACCOUNT OF Sueden:

Together with an

EXTRACT OF THE History of that KINGDOM.

LONDON:
Printed for *Tim. Goodwin* at the *Queen's Head*, againſt St. *Dunſtan's* Church in *Fleet-ſtreet*, 1694.

THE

PUBLISHER

TO THE

READER.

THE kind Reception which the Publick has given to a late Book, call'd, An *Account* of *Denmark*, (whereof Three Large Editions have come abroad in leſs than Three

 Months)

Months) encouraged me to ſeek after an Account of *Sueden*, I found all ſorts of People deſirous to be inform'd in the ſtate of this other *Northern* Crown.

After diligent Enquiry, I was at laſt ſo Fortunate as to light on this Account in *Manuſcript*, written ſome few years ago by a very Able and Learned Gentleman; and hearing that ſeveral Copies of it were got abroad, I conſider'd it might at laſt chance to come forth in Print leſs Correct than at preſent I undertake to give it

it the World, whom I pretend to oblige by a very Accurate Edition; insomuch that I hope the Author himself will not be offended at this Undertaking, since 'tis likely 'twould have been publish'd by others, not so well to his Advantage.

You will find here a Relation of Matter of Fact only, though I will venture to say, a very Exact one; and such as I doubt not but will be very Entertaining to the Reader.

What shares the *Clergy*, the *Army*, or the *Court*, had

in

in the Management of Affairs from time to time in *Sweden*, we have reaſon to believe are faithfully delivered here; the Ingenious *Author* of this Account being a Perſon of ſo known and eſtabliſh'd a Reputation.

For ſo much as relates to my Publiſhing this Book, I confeſs ingenuouſly, 'tis as unknown to the Author, as his Perſon is to me; but his Candour, Parts, and Learning appear plainly enough by this Work, that he took great Care and Pains to compile it. If it prove

to

to the Satisfaction of the Publick, as I doubt not but it will, I ſhall not loſe my Labour, nor you the Pleaſure and Benefit of it.

THE

THE

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AN ACCOUNT OF SUEDEN.

CHAP. I.

Of Sueden *in general.*

THE Dominions subject to the Crown of *Sueden* have in this and the laſt Age been ſo enlarged, by the Acquiſitions, or (as ſome call them) Encroachments made upon all their Neighbours, that they

do not properly fall under one General Deſcription; the Qualities and Characters of ſome of its Provinces being as different as their Situation: So that the Short View here offer'd, will not reach the more diſtant parts, but chiefly reſpects the Kingdom of *Sueden*, and Dukedom of *Finland*, which have the *Baltick* Sea on the South, the unpaſſable Mountains of *Norway* on the Weſt, *Lapland* on the North, and *Moſcovy* on the Eaſt; being extended from 56 to 69 Degrees of Northern Latitude, and from 32 to 55 in Longitude; and conſequently are more than twice as big as the Kingdom of *France*: But the Abatements that muſt be made for ſeveral Seas, and many great Lakes, ſome whereof above 80 *Engliſh* Miles long, and 20 broad, as alſo for Rocks, Woods, Heaths, and Moraſſes, that

that cover very much of theſe Countries, will reduce the habitable part to a very ſmall portion, comparatively to the Extent of the whole.

The Soil in places capable of Cultivating, is tolerably Fruitful, though ſeldom above half a foot deep; and therefore more eaſily Plowed, as it frequently is by one Maid and an Oxe, and is generally beſt where there is leaſt of it, that is, in the little ſpaces between the Rocks; and frequently the Barren Land enriched with the Aſhes of Trees growing on the places that are burnt, and the Seed raked among the Aſhes, produces a plentiful Crop without farther Cultivation.

This practice is ſo ancient, that their Writers derive the Name of *Sueden* from a word in their Language that expreſſes it; but the

danger of deſtroying the Woods has of late occaſioned ſome Laws to limit that Cuſtom.

If the Inhabitants were induſtrious, above what neceſſity forces them to, they might at leaſt have Corn ſufficient of their own; but as things are manag'd, they have not, nor can ſubſiſt without great Importations of all ſorts of Grain from the Countrey of *Leifland*, and other parts of *Germany*, adjacent to the *Baltick* Sea: And notwithſtanding theſe Supplies, the pooreſt ſort in many places remote from Traffick, are fain to grind the Bark of Birch-Trees to mix with their Corn and make Bread, of which they have not always plenty.

The Cattel, as in other *Northern* Countries, are generally of a very ſmall ſize; neither can the Breed be bettered by bringing in larger

larger from abroad, which ſoon degenerate; becauſe in Summer the Graſs is much leſs nouriſhing than in the places from whence they came; and in the Winter they are uſually half-ſtarved, for want of Fodder of all kinds, which often falls ſo very ſhort, that they are forced to unthatch their Houſes to keep a part of their Cattel alive. Their Sheep bear a very courſe Wool, only fit to make Cloathing for the Peaſants. The Horſes, eſpecially the *Finniſh*, tho ſmall, are hardy, vigorous, ſtrong, ſure-footed and nimble Trotters, which is of great uſe to them, becauſe of the length of their Winters, and their fitneſs for Sleds, which is their only Carriage in that Seaſon; and the Soldiers do pretend, that in War they are not only able to reſiſt, but to break a Body of the beſt *German* Horſe.

Of Wild Beaſts, which are very plentiful in theſe parts, Bears, Elkes, Deer, and Hares, are hunted for their Fleſh, as alſo, together with Wolves, Foxes, Wild-Cats, &c. for their Furs and Hides. They hunt with leſs Ceremony than elſewhere is uſed, taking all advantages to ſhoot their Game, at which they are generally very dextrous. Parks there are but few, and meanly ſtock'd, the Charge of feeding Deer all Winter exceeding the Profit, and abating the Pleaſure of them. There are no Rabbets in theſe Countries, but what are brought in for Curioſity, and kept Tame. In Winter Foxes and Squirrels ſomewhat change Colour, and become Grayiſh, but Hares turn white as Snow.

Fowl both Wild and Tame are very plentiful and good in their kind,

kind, except Sea-Fowl, which feed and taſte of Fiſh: The moſt common are *Orras* and *Keders*, the former of the bigneſs of a *Hen*, the other of a *Turky*; as alſo *Partridges*, and a Bird ſomewhat reſembling them, called *Yerpers*. There are taken in Winter great numbers of ſmall Birds, as *Thruſhes*, *Blackbirds*, and *Sydenſcwans*; the laſt of the bigneſs of *Veldefares*, but better meat, ſuppoſed to come from *Lapland*, or yet farther *North*; and have their Name from the beautifulneſs of their Feathers, ſome of which are tipt at the point with Scarlet. Pigeons there are, thoſe of the Woods very rare, becauſe of the Hawks; and of the Houſe-Pigeons none but what are kept tame, becauſe their Food is ſcarce, and the danger of the Hawks great if they go abroad. Eagles, Hawks, and other rapaci-

ous Fowl abound moſt in the *Northern* and Deſart parts, whither Nature ſeems to call them; as may be gathered from a Story credibly related, of a large Hawk ſhot ſome years ago in the *Northern* Parts of *Finland*, which had on one Leg a ſmall Plate of Gold with this Inſcription, *Je Suis au Roy*; on the other, one of Silver with theſe words, *Duc de Chevereuſe me garde.*

The chiefeſt Lakes in *Sueden* are the *Vetter*, the *Wenner*, and *Maeler*; the firſt in *Oſtrogothia*, remarkable for its foretelling of Storms, by a continual Thundering Noiſe the day before in that Quarter whence they ariſe; as alſo for the ſudden breaking of the Ice upon it, which ſometimes ſurprizes Travellers, and in half an hour becomes Navigable: For its great depth, in ſome places above 300 Fathom, tho no

part

part of the *Baltick* Sea exceed 50; it ſupplies the River *Motala*, which runs through *Norcopingh*, where it has a Fall of about 30 Foot, and ſome Winters is ſo choak'd up with Ice, that for many hours no Water paſſes. The ſecond is in *Weſtrogothia*, from which iſſues the River *Elve*, that, falling down a Rock near Sixty Foot, paſſes by *Gottenburgh*. The third empties its ſelf at *Stockholm*, furniſhing one ſide of the Town with Freſh Water, as the Sea does the other with Salt: Theſe and abundance of other Lakes, whereof many like Ponds have no Vents, and are called Inn-Seas, are not ill ſtored with variety of Fiſh, *Salmon*, *Pikes*, *Perch*, *Tench*, *Trouts*, *Eels*, and many other ſorts unknown elſewhere, of which the moſt plentiful is the *Streamling*, a Fiſh leſs than a *Pilcher*, taken in great quantities, and ſalted

ed in Barrels, and diſtributed over all the Countrey. Beſides, the *North-Bottom* or Bay that ſeparates *Sueden* and *Finland*, abounds with *Seals*, of which a conſiderable Quantity of Train Oyl is made and exported; and in the Lakes in *Finland* are vaſt quantities of Pikes, which being taken, are ſalted, dry'd, and ſold at very cheap Rates.

Theſe Lakes are of great uſe for the convenience of Carriages both in Summer by Boats, and by Sleds in Winter; and among them and on the Sea-Coaſts are almoſt innumerable Iſlands of different Sizes, whereof there are in *Sueden* above 6000 that are Inhabited, the reſt are either bare Rocks, or covered with Wood: *Gotland*, *Oland*, and *Aland*, are Iſles of large Extent, one being Sixty miles long, and the others little leſs.

Their

Their Woods and vaſt Foreſts overſpread much of the Country, and are for the moſt part of Pines, Fir, Beech, Birch, Alder, Juniper, and ſome Oak; eſpecially in the Province of *Bleaking*, the Trees growing in moſt places ſo cloſe together, and lying to rot where they fall, that the Woods are ſcarce paſſable.

Theſe afford a plentiful and cheap firing, and being generally very ſtraight and tall, are eaſily convertible into Timber, fit for all uſes. In the parts near the Mines, the Woods are much deſtroyed, but that want is ſo well ſupplied from diſtant places by the convenience of Rivers and Winter-Carriages, that they have Charcoal above ſix times as cheap as it is in *England*, tho indeed it is not half ſo good.

Of

Of Mines in *Sueden*, there is one of Silver, into which Workmen are let down in Baskets to the firſt Floor, which is 105 Fathom under ground; the Roof there, is as high as a Church, ſupported by vaſt Arches of Oar; thence the Deſcent is by Ladders or Baskets to the loweſt Mine, above forty Fathom, where they now Work. They have no Records ſo ancient as the firſt Diſcovery either of this or the Copper Mine, which muſt needs have been the work of many Ages; the Oar ſeldom yields above 4 *per Cent.* and requires great pains to Refine it; they are alſo at the charge of a Water-Mill to drain the Mine, and have the benefit of another that draws up the Oar. It yearly produces about Twenty thouſand Crowns of Fine Silver, of which the King has the Pre-emption, paying

paying one fourth leſs than the real Value. The Copper-Mine is about eighty Fathom deep, of great extent, but ſubject to damage by the falling in of the Roof; yet that is ſometimes recompenced by the abundance of Oar that the ruined Pillars yield, tho moſt commonly the loſs in that Caſe is very great; the occaſion of which falls is attributed to the throwing the Earth and Stones, brought out, upon the Ground over the Mine, by which the Pillars become overcharged, and give way; and the reaſon of this is ſaid to be, that the profit ariſing to thoſe that are concerned, is ſo little, that they are not able to work it off as they ought; and unleſs the King abates conſiderable part of the Profit ariſing to the Crown from this Mine, 'tis believed it will in few years be at a ſtand, eſpecially

ally if the deſigns of making Copper, that are on foot elſewhere, do take any tolerable effect. The Copper yearly made out of this Mine, amounts to the value of about Two hundred thouſand pounds, of which the King has a fourth part, not by way of Preemption, but in kind; beſides, that upon the remainder, he has a Cuſtom of 25 *per Cent.* when it is exported unwrought.

Lately a Gentleman of *Italy* came to *Sueden* with Propoſals to make Copper a ſhorter and cheaper way than has hitherto been practiſed, as to make that in five Days, which before required three Weeks, and with one fifth part of the Charcoal, and with fewer hands. The Bargain was made, and his Reward agreed to be a Hundred thouſand Crowns; the firſt Proof he made ſucceeded

to

to admiration; but when he came to work in earneſt, and had got his new-invented Ovens built to his mind, the Miners, as he complained, pickt out the very worſt Oar, and were otherwiſe ſo envious and untractable, that he failed of ſucceſs, and loſt his Reward, and not without difficulty obtained leave to buy Oar, and practice his Invention at his own Charge, as he now does.

Iron-Mines and Forges are in great numbers, eſpecially towards the Mountainous parts, where they have the convenience of Waterfalls to turn their Mills. From theſe, beſides ſupplying the Country, there is yearly exported Iron to the value of near Three hundred thouſand pounds. But of late years, the number of theſe Forges has been ſo much increaſed, that each endeavouring to underſell others,

others, the Price has been much lowered: and ſince the Prohibition of Foreign Manufactures (in Exchange of which, Iron was plentifully taken off) it is grown ſo cheap, that it is found neceſſary to leſſen the number of Forges; neither has that contrivance had the effect intended; but on the contrary many more are like to fall of themſelves, becauſe they cannot work but to loſs; in which caſe many thouſands of poor people, whoſe livelihoods depend upon theſe Forges and Mines, will be reduced to a ſtarving Condition.

The Seaſons of the year, tho regular in themſelves, do not altogether anſwer thoſe of other Climates, as a *French* Ambaſſador obſerved, who in Raillery ſaid, There were in *Sueden* only nine Months *Winter*, and all the reſt

was

was *Summer*; for as *Winter* commonly begins very ſoon, ſo *Summer* immediately ſucceeds it, and leaves little or no ſpace to be called Spring. The Productions therefore of the Earth ought to be, as they are, more ſpeedy in their Growth than in other parts; the reaſon of which ſeems to be, that the Oyl and Sulphur in the Earth (as it appears by the Trees and Minerals it produces) being bound up all the *Winter*, are then of a ſudden actuated by the heat of a warm *Sun*, which almoſt continually ſhines, and thereby makes amends for its ſhort ſtay, and brings to maturity the Fruits proper to the Climate. Yet withal, its heat is ſo intenſe, that it often ſets the Woods on fire, which ſometimes ſpreads it ſelf many Leagues,

and ſcarce can be ſtopt till it come at ſome Lake, or very large Plain.

In the *Summer* ſeaſon the Fields are cloathed with variety of Flowers, and the whole Country overſpread with Strawberries, Rasberries, Currants, and the like, which grow upon every Rock. In their Gardens, *Mellons* are brought to good perfection in dry years; but *Apricocks*, *Peaches*, and other Wall-fruits, are almoſt as rare as *Oranges*; they have *Cherries* of ſeveral ſorts, and ſome tolerably good, which cannot be ſaid of their *Apples*, *Pears*, and *Plumbs*, that are neither common, nor well-taſted; all kinds of Roots are in plenty, and contribute much to the Nouriſhment of the poor People.

The

The *Sun* at higheſt is above the Horizon of *Stockholm* Eighteen hours and an half, and for ſome Weeks makes a continual Day. In *Winter*, the Days are proportionably ſhorter, the *Sun* being up but five hours and a half, which defect is ſo well ſupplied as to Lights, by the *Moon*, and the whiteneſs of the Snow, and clearneſs of the Sky, that Travelling by Night is as uſual as by Day; and Journeys begun in the Evening as frequently as in the Morning. The want of the *Sun*'s heat is repaired by Stoves within doors, and warm Furs abroad; inſtead of which, the meaner ſort uſe Sheep-skins, and other the like Defences; and are generally better provided with Cloathing, befitting their Condition, and the Climate they live in, than the Common People of

any part of *Europe*, tho where any neglect or failure happens, it uſually proves fatal, and occaſions the loſs of Noſes, or other Members, and ſometimes of Life; unleſs the uſual Remedy to expel the Froſt when it has ſeized any part, be early applied, which is to remain in the Cold, and rub the part affected with Snow, till the Blood return to it again.

What has been ſaid in relation to *Sueden*, is in the main applicable to *Finland*, except only that hitherto no Mines have been diſcovered there. Its chiefeſt Commodities are Pitch, and Tar, all ſorts of Wooden-ware, Dried Fiſh, Cattle, Train Oyl, *&c.*

The Remainder alſo of this Diſcourſe, in what relates to the Laws,

Laws, Government, Cuſtoms, and Natural Diſpoſitions of the People, equally belongs to them, with this difference, that the *Finlanders* are rather more hardy and laborious, more Clowniſh, Ignorant, and Superſtitious, than the *Suedes*.

CHAP. II.

Of the Provinces and Cities of Sueden.

THE Country is divided into Twenty five Provinces, each of which is governed by an Officer, called *Landſhofdingh*, whoſe Authority comprehends that of Lord Leiutenant, and Sheriff together, except where there is a General Governor, as in *Finland*, and upon the Borders of *Denmark* and *Norway*, to whom the Governor of each Province is ſubordinate, and has thereby a more reſtrained Authority; theſe Officers are placed by the King, and take an Oath, to keep the Province for his Majeſty, and his Heirs, to govern according to the Laws

Laws of *Sueden*, and ſuch Inſtructions as they ſhall receive from his Majeſty, and to quit the Province whenever he ſhall call them thence.

To them and their Subordinate Officers (who are all of the King's chuſing) the Execution of Judicial Sentences, the Collection of the King's Revenues, the care of Foreſts, Parks, and other Crown Lands, *&c.* is committed.

Of Cities, thoſe of *Stockholm*, *Gottenburgh*, *Calmar*, and Two or Three more, may deſerve that Name: The other Corporations, which in all make not an Hundred, ſcarce exceed ſome Villages in *England*; they are all Governed by Burgomaſters, and Counſellors Choſen by the King out of their own Body, or at leaſt, ſuch as are of the quality of Burghers, no Gentleman accepting of thoſe

Employments. Their Offices and Salaries are for Life, or rather during their good Behaviour. The Priviledges of Cities are derived from the King, and for the moſt part are owing to the Wiſdom of *Guſtavus Adolphus*, the Author of their beſt and moſt regular Conſtitutions at Home, as well as of their Glory Abroad.

The City of *Stockholm* lies in 59 Degrees, 20 Min. *North* Latitude, and about 41 Longitude. About 300 years ago, it was only a bare Iſland with Two or Three Cottages for Fiſhers; but upon the Building of a Caſtle there, to ſtop the inroads of the *Ruſſians*, and the Tranſlation of the Court thither, it grew by degrees to ſurpaſs the other more Ancient Cities, and it is at preſent the *Metropolis* of this Kingdom, and ſuppoſed to be as Populous as *Briſtol*.

The

The Caſtle here, which is covered with Copper, is a Place of no Strength or Beauty, but of great uſe, being a ſpacious Building, that, beſides Entertaining the Court, furniſhes Room for moſt of the great Offices, the National Court of Juſtice, Colledges of War, Chancery, Treaſury, Reduction, Liquidation, Commerce, Execution; as alſo, an Armory, Chappel, Library, Archives, *&c.* It Lodges very few of the Inferiour Officers and Servants of the Court; they, together with the Foot Guards, being Quartered upon the Burghers at their Landlords Charge for Lodging, Fire and Candle.

In this City there are Seven large Churches built of Brick, and covered with Copper, beſides Two more now Building, and Three or Four Wooden Chappels.

The

The Palace of the Nobility, which is the place of their Aſſembly at the Convention of Eſtates, and the Depoſitory of their Priviledges, Titles, and ſuch other Records as concern their Body, is a very ſtately Pile; as is alſo the Bank, built at the City's Charge; which, together with ſeveral Magnificent Houſes of the Nobility, are covered with Copper, and make a handſome Proſpect; moſt of the Burghers Houſes are built of Brick, except in the Suburbs, where they are of Wood, and thereby expoſed to the danger of Fire; which commonly, when it gets to a head, deſtroys all before it, in the Quarter where it happens; to repair which Misfortune, they ſometimes ſend the Dimenſions of the Houſe they intend to build into *Finland*, where the Walls and ſeveral Separations

are

are built of Pieces of Timber laid one upon another, and joined at the Corners, and afterwards mark'd, taken down, and ſent by Water to *Stockholm*, there to be ſet up and finiſh'd, and when they are kept in good Repair, will laſt Thirty or Forty Years, and are warmer, cleanlier, and more healthful than thoſe of either Brick or Stone. To prevent the Danger of Fire, the City is divided into Twelve Wards, and in each of theſe is a Maſter and Four Aſſiſtants, who upon notice of any Fire are immediately to repair to it, as alſo all Porters and Labourers, and to range themſelves under the Maſter of their reſpective Wards: There is alſo a Fire-Watch by Night, who walks about only to that purpoſe; and in each Church-Steeple Watch is kept, and a Bell Tolled upon the

firſt appearance of any Fire.

The Government of this City is in the hands of the Great *Stadtholder*, who is alſo a Privy Counſellor; he ſits once a Week in the Town Houſe, and preſides alſo in the College of Execution, aſſiſted by an Under *Stadtholder*, and the *Bailiff* of the Caſtle; next to him are the Four Burghmaſters, one for Juſtice, another for Trade, the Third for the Polity of the City, and the Fourth has the Inſpection over all Publick and Private Buildings, and determines ſuch Caſes as ariſe on that account; with them the Counſellors of the City always ſit and give their Votes, the Majority of which concludes: Their Number is uncertain, but uſually about Twenty, moſt Merchants and Shopkeepers, or ſuch as have ſerved the King in ſome Inferior Employments

ments; and beſides their Salary they have an Immunity from ſuch Impoſitions as are laid on the Inhabitants, to ſupport the Government of the City, which pays all its Officers and Servants, and maintains a Guard of 300 men, and defrays the Charge of all Publick Buildings and Repairs. To ſupport this Expence, beſides a Duty belonging to the City, upon Goods Imported and Exported, (which is about 4 *per Cent.* of the Cuſtoms paid the King, and amounts to about 4000 *l. per An.*) the Magiſtrates impoſe a Yearly Tax on the Burghers, in which they are aſſiſted by a Common-Council of Forty eight (which chuſes its own Members), and meets every Spring to proportion the Payments for the enſuing Year. On the Richer Traders they uſually impoſe 40, 50,

or

or 60 *l. ſterling*; and upon others of a meaner Condition, as Shoemakers, Taylors, *&c.* 5 or 6 *l.* and no Houſekeeper leſs than 15 *s.* beſides Quartering the Guards, Inferior Officers, and Servants of the Court, with other leſſer Charges; which all together, would be thought a great burthen even in Richer Countries; neither is it otherwiſe eſteemed by the Inhabitants of this City, who can ſcarce be kept in heart by the Priviledges they enjoy, as well in Cuſtoms, as in the Trade of the Place, which muſt needs paſs through their hands; the Natives of other parts of the Kingdom, as well as Foreigners, being obliged to deal only with the Burghers, except thoſe of the Gentry that make Iron, who have a Privilege to ſell it immediately to Strangers.

This

This City is in a manner the Staple of *Sueden*, to which moſt of the Goods of their own Growth, viz. *Iron*, *Copper*, *Wire*, *Pitch*, *Tarr*, *Maſts*, *Deals*, &c. are brought to be Exported. The greateſt part of the Commodities Imported from abroad come to this Port, where there is a Haven capable of receiving 1000 Sail of Ships, and has a Bridge or Key near an *Engliſh* Mile long, to which the greateſt Veſſels may lye with their Broadſides: The only Inconvenience is, That it is Ten Miles from the Sea, and the River very crooked, and no Tides.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the Laws of Sueden.

THE Laws of *Sueden* were anciently as various as the Provinces were numerous, each of which had Statutes and Cuſtoms peculiar to its ſelf, enacted as occaſion required by the *Laghman* or Governor of the Province, who was choſen by the People, and Inveſted with great Authority, eſpecially while the Kingdom was Elective, his Suffrage concluding the Province he governed. This variety was neceſſarily attended with great Confuſion; for remedy whereof, about Fourſcore Years ago, one Body of Laws was compiled for the direction of the whole Kingdom; yet

yet this Collection is but an imperfect piece, and the Laws ſo few, and concieved in ſuch general terms, that in moſt caſes they need the aſſiſtance of the Civil Law; and after all, the Final Determination depends much upon the Inclinations of the Bench; which in a poor Countrey, where Salaries are ſmall, is often filled with ſuch as are of Weak Parts, and ſubject to Corruption upon very ſmall Temptations. The Effects of this would be more viſible, if each Superior Court did not keep a Cheque upon the Lower, and the King's Court of Reviſion over-awe them all, to which all Civil Cauſes importing the Sum of 70 *l.* are appealable; and very few end before they have been brought thither. In this Supreme Court his Majeſty very frequently ſits with great Patience

and Application; and in Seven Years time has determined more Cauſes than the Senators did in Twenty before.

His Majeſty is obſerved always to make a ſhort Mental Prayer at firſt ſitting down there.

In this Court the Preſident of the Chancery, and Two or Three other Privy Counſellors, do alſo ſit, ſo does the Chancellor of the Court (an Officer next in degree to a Privy Counſellor) who is Preſident of the Under Reviſion, where he and Two Secretaries do put Buſineſs into a Method fit to be brought before the King.

The Courts of Juſtice inferior to this are of three Degrees; of the loweſt Degree or firſt Inſtance, there is one in each Corporation, (beſides *Stockholm*, in which there are Three), as alſo in each Diſtrict or Territory, whereof every Pro-

Province contains ſeveral, ſome above Twenty; in the former (Cities) an Alderman or Counſellor preſides, and has ſome of his Brethren for Aſſiſtants; in the latter, the Governor of the Territory, with a ſtanding Jury; his Court is *Ambulatory*, and uſually kept near or upon the place where the Fact or Treſpaſs was committed.

In theſe Courts Examinations are taken, and matters not exceeding Forty Shillings are determined, the reſt tranſmitted to the next Superior Court, of which in every Corporation there is one, where the *Burghmaſter* is Preſident, and the Aldermen Aſſiſtants; and ſo in every Province there is one or more of theſe Courts, the Preſident whereof retains the name of *Lagh*-man, without other Authority than that of a Judge; from

theſe all Cauſes of Blood muſt be tranſmitted to the reſpective National Courts, where they are determined without further Appeal; and thither alſo all Civil Actions, not exceeding 20 *l.* may be appealed; of theſe National Courts there are Three, one for the Kingdom of *Sueden*, held at *Stockholm*; another for the Kingdom of *Gothia*, kept at *Jencopingh*; and a Third for the Dukedom of *Finland*, at *Abo*: In each of theſe a Privy Counſellor is Preſident, and above half the Aſſeſſors are to be Gentlemen: All theſe Courts ſit continually, or at moſt have but ſhort Vacations; and not being peſtered with too much Formality give Cauſes a ſpeedy diſpatch, unleſs they be retarded by ſome under-hand Engagements.

Actions relating to the Sea are Triable in the ordinary Courts, ac-

according to their Sea-Laws, founded upon thoſe Ancient ones of *Wisby* in *Gothland*, which have formerly been as famous in the *Baltick* Sea, as the Laws of the *Rhodes* and *Oleron* in other places. The Court of Admiralty has not any peculiar Juriſdiction in the Adminiſtration of theſe Laws, but only in ſuch matters as directly concern the King's Fleet, and in ſome places that belong immediately to the *Admiralty*.

For Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical there is a Conſiſtory in each Dioceſs, of which the reſpective Biſhop is Preſident, where Cauſes of Baſtardy, Contracts of Marriage, and other matters of that nature, are try'd; and Church-Cenſures of Penance, Divorce, *&c.* inflicted: Theſe Courts have not Power to adminiſter an Oath, nor to inflict any Corporal Puniſh-

ment. From them there lies an Appeal to the reſpective National Court, and in ſome Caſes to the King, as in all other matters.

For matters relating to the Mines, beſides Inferior Courts, and Officers ſettled in the reſpective parts of the Countrey, a General Court, called the College of the Mines, ſits at *Stockholm*, of which moſt commonly the Preſident of the Treaſury is chief, with a Vice-Preſident, and other Aſſeſſors; the Laws in this regard are more exact and particular than in other matters, and for the moſt part Juſtice very carefully adminiſtred.

The Power of executing all Judicial Sentences is lodged in the Governors of the Provinces, the Stadtholders of *Stockholm*, and other places, and from them derived to Inferior Officers, who are ac-

accountable to the National Courts; whither they may be Convened and puniſh'd, upon plain Proof of Default. But the Proof being difficult, and Miniſters of Juſtice apt to favour each other, they take great liberty to delay Execution, or to arbitrate, and put their own ſenſe upon Sentences; ſo that this part of Juſtice is adminiſtred the worſt of all others, and has an Influence not only at home, but leſſens the Credit of the *Swediſh* Subjects abroad, againſt whom Juſtice cannot be obtained without great difficulty.

The ordinary Charges of Law-Suits are no where more moderate than in *Sueden*; the greateſt burthen ariſing from a late Conſtitution, That all Declarations, Acts, and Sentences, muſt be written upon Seal'd Paper of different

Prizes, from Twopence to Seven Shillings a Sheet, according to the Quality of the Cauſe, the Benefit of which accrues to the King, and is computed to bring in about 3000 *l.* a year; other Charges are very few, every man being permitted (in Criminal Actions compelled) to plead his own Cauſe: Accordingly the Practice of the Law is below a Gentleman, and rather the Refuge than the Choice of meaner perſons, who are very few in Number, and for the moſt part very poor.

The Cuſtom of a Jury of Twelve men is ſo ancient in *Sueden*, that their Writers pretend it had its Original among them, and was thence derived to other Nations; but at preſent it is diſuſed every where, except only in the Lower Courts in the Country, and there the Jury-men are for

for Life, and have Salaries; they have this peculiar to themſelves, that among them there muſt be an unanimous Concurrence to determine a Cauſe, which in other Courts is done by a Majority of Voices.

Titles to Eſtates are rendred more ſecure, and leſs ſubject to Conteſts, by the Regiſters that are kept of all Sales and Alienations, as well as of other Engagements of them: The Purchaſer running the hazard of having an After-Bargain take place of his, if he omit the Recording of his Tranſaction in the proper Court.

In Criminal Matters, where the Fact is not very evident, or where the Judges are very favourable, the Defendant is admitted to purge himſelf by Oath, to which is oftentimes added the Oath of Six or Twelve other men, who

who are all Vouchers of his Integrity.

Treaſon, Murther, Double Adultrey, Burning of Houſes, Witchcraft, and the like Heinous Crimes, are puniſhed with Death, which is executed by hanging of Men, and beheading of Women; to which burning alive or dead, quartering and hanging in Chains, is ſometimes added, according to the Nature of the Crime. Criminals of the Gentry and Nobility, are uſually ſhot to Death.

The Puniſhment of Stealing, is of late inſtead of Death, changed into a kind of perpetual Slavery, the Guilty party being condemned to work all his Life for the King, in making Fortifications, or other Drudgery, and always has a Collar of Iron about his Neck, with a Bow coming over his Head, to which is a Bell faſtened,

faſtened, that rings as he goes along.

Duels between Gentlemen, if the one Party be kill'd, are puniſh'd with the Survivor's Death, and a Note of Infamy upon the Memory of both; if neither be kill'd, they are both condemned to a Priſon, with Bread and Water for two years, to which is added a Fine of 1000 Crowns; or one years Impriſonment, and 2000 Crowns. Reparation of Honour in caſe of Affront, is referred to the reſpective National Court, where Recantation and Publick Begging of Pardon is uſually inflicted.

Eſtates as well acquired, as inherited, deſcend to the Children in equal Portions, of which a Son has two, and a Daughter one; nor is it in the power of the Parents to alter this Proportion without

out the Intervention of a Judicial Sentence in caſe of their Children's diſobedience, only they may bequeath a Tenth of their acquired Poſſeſſions to ſuch Child, or other, as they will favour. Where an Eſtate deſcends incumbred with Debts, the Heir uſually takes two or three Months time, as the Law allows, to ſearch into the Condition of the Deceaſed's Eſtate, and then either accepts the Inheritance, or leaves it to the Law, which in that caſe Adminiſters; as lately, beſides other Inſtances, was practiſed upon the deceaſe of the late *Rix Droſt Count Magnus De la Gardier*, the King's Unkle.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Natural Inclinations and Diſpoſitions of the Suedes.

THE Nature of the Climate, which affords a very healthful and dry, as well as ſharp Air, diſpoſes the Natives to a vigorous Conſtitution; and that confirm'd by a hardy Education, courſe Fare, hard Lodgings, *&c.* qualifies them to endure whatever uneaſy Circumſtances befal them, better than thoſe that are born in a more moderate Country, and more indulgently bred.

But on the other ſide, it ſeems as if the ſeverity of the Clime ſhould in a manner cramp the Faculties

Faculties of their Bodies, and indiſpoſe them for any great degree of Dexterity and Nimbleneſs; and the ſame may be ſaid in a great meaſure, of their Minds too, which ſeldom are found endued with any eminent ſhare of Vivacity or Pregnancy of Wit; yet by Induſtry, Experience, and Travelling, not a few of them arrive at a mature and ſolid Judgment, being led by their Genius to ſerious things, in which they that have Patience to go through with the Studies they apply themſelves to, become Excellent, and merit the Title of great and able Men; but this ſeems not to be the Talent of this Nation, they being generally more apt to ſit down with ſuperficial Acquiſitions, than to purſue their Studies to a fundamental degree.

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This Diſpoſition of Body and Mind qualifies them more for a Life of Labour and Fatigue, than of Art and Curioſity, and the effect of it is viſible in all Orders of Men among them.

The Nobility moſtly apply themſelves to a Military Life, in which they are more famous for Courage, and enduring Hardſhips, than for Stratagems and Intrigues. They that are employed in the Adminiſtration of Civil Affairs, tho they are indeed Laborious and Indefatigable in their buſineſs, yet they ſeldom raiſe their Speculations above what the neceſſity of their Employments require, their Abilities proceeding not ſo much from Study, as Experience in the Tract of buſineſs.

In point of Learning, they, like their Neighbours the *Germans*, are

are more given to Tranſcribe, and make Collections, than Digeſt their own Thoughts; and commonly proportion their Studies to their occaſions.

In matters of Trade, they more eaſily do the Drudgery, than dive into the Myſtery, either of Commerce or Manufactures, in which they uſually ſet up for Maſters before they be half taught; ſo that in all ſuch things as require Ingenuity, Neatneſs, or Dexterity, they are forc'd to be ſerved by Strangers. Their Common Soldiers endure Cold and Hunger, and long Marches, and hard Labour to admiration; but they learn their Duty very ſlowly, and are ſerviceable more by their Obedience to command, and ſtanding their Ground, than by any great forwardneſs to attack their Enemy, or in nimbleneſs and addreſs

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in executing their Orders; and ſo their Peaſants are tolerably Laborious when need compels them, but have little regard to Neatneſs in their Work, and are hardly brought to quit their old, ſlow, and toilſome Methods, for ſuch new Inventions as are more dextrous and eaſy.

The Diſpoſitions more peculiar to the ſeveral degrees of theſe People, are, That the Nobility and Gentry are naturally Men of Courage, and of a Warlike Temper, have a graceful Deportment, inclined to value themſelves at a High rate, and make the beſt Appearance they poſſibly can, that they may gain the reſpect of others; and are therefore more exceſſive in the number of their Attendants, Sumptuous Buildings, and Rich Apparel, than in the plentifulneſs of their Tables, or

other leſs obſerv'd Occaſions. They never deſcend to any Employments in the Church, the Practice of Law or Phyſick, or the Exerciſe of any Trade; and tho to gain experience in Maritime Affairs, they ſubmit to the loweſt Offices abroad, yet at home there is but one Example known of a Gentleman, that accepted the Command of a Merchant's Ship.

The Clergy are but moderately Learned, and little acquainted with the Diſputes about Religion, as having no Adverſaries to oppoſe; they affect Gravity, and long Beards; are eſteemed for their Hoſpitality, and have great Authority among the Common People. The Burghers are not very Intelligent in Trade, nor able to do their buſineſs without Credit from abroad; rather inclined to impoſe upon thoſe they can over-

reach,

reach, than follow their Calling in a fair way. The Peaſants, when Sober, are very obſequious and reſpectful, but Drink makes them mad and ungovernable; moſt of them live in a very poor Condition, and are taught by neceſſity to practice ſeveral Arts in a rude manner, as the making their Shooes, Cloathes, *&c.* the ſeveral Inſtruments of Husbandry, and other neceſſaries, that they cannot ſpare Money to buy: And to keep them to this, as alſo to favour the Cities, it is not permitted to more than one Taylor, or other ſuch Artiſan, to dwell in the ſame Pariſh, tho it be never ſo large, as many of them are above twenty Miles in compaſs.

In general, it may be ſaid of the whole Nation, that they are a People very Religious in their way, and conſtant frequenters of the

Church, eminently Loyal and Affected to Monarchy, Grave even to Formality; Sober, more out of neceſſity, than Principles of temperance; apt to entertain Suſpitions, and to envy each other, as well as Strangers; more inclined to pilfering, and ſuch ſecret Frauds, than to ſuch open Violences, as breaking of Houſes, or Robbing on the Highways: Crimes as rarely committed in this, as in any Country whatever.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of the Religion of Sueden.

CHRISTIANITY was not received into *Sueden*, till about the beginning of the Ninth Century; and not into *Finland* till near three hundred Years after; and if not firſt Preached, was at leaſt firſt Eſtabliſhed by *Engliſh* Divines, of whom the chiefeſt was St. *Sigfrid*, who, as their Hiſtories relate, quitted the Arch-Biſhoprick of *York*, to become the Apoſtle of the *Goths*, as they ſtile him; with him three of his Nephews that he brought thither, were Martyred by the *Heathen Goths*. So alſo was St. *Eskill*, and other *Engliſh*, by the *Suedes*; and about the Year 1150. St. *Henry*,

an *Engliſh* Biſhop, accompani'd St. *Erick*, King of *Sueden*, in his Expedition to *Finland*, which the King conquered, and the Biſhop converted into *Chriſtianity*; he alſo was Martyred by the Infidels, and lies buried at *Abo*, the Metropolis of that Country.

The *Reformation*, as well there, as in *Denmark* and *Norway*, began ſoon after the Neighbouring parts of *Germany* had imbraced *Luther*'s Tenets, and was eſtabliſhed according to his Platform. The Tyranny of King *Chriſtian* the Second, who then wore theſe three *Northern* Crowns, gave an opportunity to *Guſtavus*, the Founder of the preſent Royal Family, both to alter Religion, and advance himſelf to the Regal Dignity, which till that time was *Elective*, but was then made *Hereditary* to his Family; in which

it

it has ſince continued, as the *Lutheran* Religion has alſo done in the Country, never but once diſturbed from abroad, and ſince that diſturbance never diſtracted at home with Non-conformity; all the Orders of Men agreeing in a conſtant Attendance on Divine Service, and a Zeal for their own Way, without any nice Enquiries into diſputable Points, either in their own Tenets, or thoſe of other Churches; whereby it becomes the buſineſs of their Preachers, rather to perſuade the Practice of Piety, than to oppoſe the Doctrine of others, or defend their own.

The Church is governed by an Archbiſhop and Ten Biſhops, whoſe Studies are confined to their own Employments, being never called to Council, but only at the Aſſembly of the States,

nor troubled with the Administration of any Secular Affair: their Revenues are very moderate, the Archbishop of *Upsall* not Importing 400 *l.* a year, and the Bishopricks after that Proportion. Under them are Seven or Eight Superintendents, who have all the Power of Bishops, and only want the Name; and over each Ten Churches is a Provost or Rural Dean, with some Authority over the Inferior Clergy, of whom the Sum total may best be computed by the Number of Churches, which in *Sueden* and *Finland* is short of Two thousand; to which the Addition of Chaplains and Curates will encrease the Body of the Clergy to near Four thousand persons; they are all the Sons of Peasants or mean Burghers, and can therefore content themselves with the small Income of their Places,

Places, which beſides more inconſiderable Dues, ariſes from Glebe-Lands, and one Third of the Tythes, of which the other two Thirds are annexed to the Crown, to be employ'd in Pious Uſes: However, the Clergy have generally wherewithal to exerciſe Hoſpitality, and are the conſtant Refuge of Poor Travellers, eſpecially Strangers, who uſe to go from Prieſt to Prieſt, as elſewhere from Conſtable to Conſtable.

The Clergy of each Dioceſs, upon the Death of their Biſhop, propoſe Three perſons to the King, who either chuſes one of them, or ſome other, to ſucceed in that Office; which is alſo practiſed in the Choice of Superintendents. In the Choice of an Archbiſhop all the Chapters in the Kingdom vote, but the Deter-

Determination is altogether in the King's breaſt. His Majeſty hath alſo the Patronage of moſt Churches, ſome few only being in the Diſpoſal of the Nobility. Many of their Churches are adorn'd with variety of Sculptures, Painting, Gilding, &c. All of them are kept neat and clean, and in good Repair, furniſh'd as well in Countrey as City with Rich Altar Clothes, Copes, and other Veſtments.

For the more regular Government of the Church it has been found neceſſary to cauſe the Ancient Eccleſiaſtical Laws and Canons to be reviſed by a Committee choſen out of the ſeveral Bodies of the Eſtates, who have ſpent ſome years in that matter, and at laſt preſented the King with a New Syſtem of Church-Laws; where-

in

in his Majeſty, having cauſed ſuch Alterations to be made as he thought fit, has lately approved and publiſh'd them.

Of theſe, ſome that concern their Religion in general, ſhall here be taken notice of. By theſe New Canons it is ordain'd, That

'If any *Swediſh* Subject change 'his Religion, he ſhall be ba-'niſh'd the Kingdom, and loſe 'all Right of Inheritance both 'for himſelf and his Deſcen-'dants.

'If any continue Excommu-'nicated above a Year, he ſhall 'be Impriſoned a Month with 'Bread and Water, and then ba-'niſh'd.

'If any bring into the Coun-'trey Teachers of another Re-'ligion,

'ligion, he ſhall be Fin'd and 'Baniſh'd.

'Foreign Miniſters ſhall en-'joy the Free Exerciſe of their 'Religion, only for themſelves 'and Families.

'Strangers of a different Re-'ligion ſhall have no Publick 'Exerciſe of it; and their Chil-'dren ſhall be baptized by *Lu-'theran* Miniſters, and educated 'in that Religion; otherwiſe 'they ſhall not have the Privi-'leges of *Suediſh* Subjects.

Theſe Laws, as they oblige the Clergy to a more conſtant Attendance on all the parts of their Duty, than has formerly been practiſed, ſo they require the Laity to frequent the Church on all occaſions; and the Civil Magiſtrates, eſpecially on Days of great

great Solemnity, make very ſtrict ſearch, and puniſh ſuch as are found abſent from Church without a juſt Excuſe, with Impriſonment and other Severities: But the Clergy are not intruſted with the ſole Adminiſtration of theſe Laws, nor impower'd by them to tranſact matters of any great moment, without the concurrence of the Civil Power; for beſides that many Cauſes, formerly Triable in Eccleſiaſtical Courts, are now transferr'd to the Secular Magiſtrates; the King reſerves to his own cognizance ſeveral caſes of that kind, eſpecially the Point of *Excommunication*, which the Clergy are not permitted to pronounce againſt any one, till the King hath been acquainted with the Caſe, and gives leave;

leave; which Caution is uſed becauſe of the conſequence, which is, the Loſs of a Subject.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Univerſities of Sueden.

LEARNING, whatever their Modern Writers pretend, can plead no great Antiquity in this Country; the Inſtitution of an Univerſity at *Upſall* being not above Three hundred years ago; and few Monuments extant of a more Ancient Date, but only Funeral Inſcriptions, rudely cut upon Rocks and unhew'n Stones, which are every where found; but as they have no Date, ſo they ſeldom expreſs more than the Names of Perſons, of whom no other Memory remains; that which makes them moſt remarkable

able is, That they are writ in the Ancient *Gothic* Language, and the *Runick* Character.

The moſt Curious Piece of Learning among them, is a Tranſlation of the Evangeliſts into the *Gothic* Tongue, done about Twelve or Thirteen hundred Years ago, by *Ulphila*, a Biſhop of the *Goths* in *Thracia*, of which they have the ſole Ancient Manuſcript Copy that is known to be in the world. Since the Reformation, *Guſtavus Adolphus* was the firſt great Patron Learning had in this Countrey, by whom the Univerſities that had been much impair'd, were endow'd with tolerable Salaries for Profeſſors in moſt Sciences. Theſe his Daughter Queen *Chriſtina* ſomewhat augmented, and by the Fame of her own Learning,

Learning, and the favourable Reception ſhe gave to Scholars, drew ſeveral Learned men from abroad, that have left good Proofs of their Abilities, and raiſed an Emulation in the Natives, whoſe beſt Performance is in the Hiſtory, Antiquities, and Ancient Laws of the Countrey.

The Univerſity of *Upſall* conſiſts of a Chancellor, who is always a great Miniſter of State; a Vice-Chancellor, always the Archbiſhop; a Rector, choſen out of the Profeſſors, of whom there are about Twenty that have each 150 *l.* a Year Salary. The ordinary Number of Students is above Seven or Eight hundred; Fifty of which are maintain'd by the King, and ſome few others were former-

ly by Perſons of Quality; the reſt, that cannot ſubſiſt of themſelves, ſpend the Vacation in gathering the Charity of the Dioceſs they belong to, which is commonly given them in Corn, Butter, dry'd Fiſh or Fleſh, *&c.* upon which they ſubſiſt at the Univerſity the reſt of the Year. They live not Collegiately, but in Private Houſes; nor wear Gowns, nor obſerve other Diſcipline, than what their own Neceſſity or Diſpoſition leads them to.

The other Univerſity of *Abo*, in *Finland*, is conſtituted in the ſame manner, but leſs numerous in Profeſſors and Students.

There was a Third at *Lunden* in *Schonen*, which, having been interrupted by the late Wars, is thought fit to be diſcontinued,

nued, becauſe its Neighbourhood to *Denmark* nouriſh'd in the Students an Affection for that Crown, to which that Province formerly appertain'd; yet it is again reſtor'd.

In each Dioceſs there is one Free School, where Boys are fitted for the Univerſity; and other trivial Schools, to which Children are ſent to learn to Read, Write, and Sing their Prayers; a Cuſtom ſo univerſal, that very few of them want this degree of Education; and further than that, ſuch as are not deſign'd for Studies, do very ſeldom go, nor waſte their time in other needleſs Improvements.

Publick Proviſions for the Poor, are very few; there's not above Five or Six Hoſpi-

tals in the Kingdom, and a little Almſ-houſe in each Pariſh, maintain'd by the Charity of the Inhabitants; to which for the moſt part they are very well diſpoſed, according to their Abilities.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of their Marriages and Funerals.

MArriages in *Sueden* are totally govern'd by the Will of the Parents, and founded ſo much upon Intereſt, that the Inclination of the Parties is little regarded, nor the Nation much troubled with the Extravagancies of Lovers: Stealing of Matches is ſcarce heard of in an Age; nor can the Church give Licenſe to Marry, without Publication of the Banns: Perſons of Quality of both Sexes commonly remain unmarried till Thirty or above, becauſe their Fortunes on both ſides being in their Parents hands while

they live, they are not in a condition to maintain a Family, till the Death of Relations, or Advancement to Office, furniſh them with the Means of ſubſiſting. The Women, while young, have generally Fair Complexions, tolerable Features, and good Shapes; and ſome of them are accounted more eminent for Chaſtity before Marriage, than Fidelity after; they are very fruitful, and ſeldom fail of a Numerous Iſſue: They are no where made greater Drudges than here, the meaner ſort being, beſides the ordinary offices of their Sex, put to Plow and Thraſh, to Row in Boats, and bear Burthens at the Building of Houſes, and on other occaſions.

Domeſtick Quarrels rarely happen, and more ſeldom become Publick; the Husbands being as apt

to

to keep the Authority in their own hands, as the Wives by Nature, Cuſtom, or Neceſſity, are inclin'd to be Obedient: Divorces, and other Separations between Man and Wife, ſcarce ever happen, but among the Inferior ſort, when the Innocent Party is allowed to marry again: Couſin-Germans may not Marry without the King's Diſpenſation, which is more frequently granted, than refuſed.

In Wedding Entertainments they have ever affected Pomp and Superfluity beyond the proportion of their Abilities; for by the Exceſs of one Day, oftimes many of them involve themſelves in ſuch inconveniences as they feel many Years. The ſame is obſervable in their Funeral Solemnities, which are uſually accompanied with more

Jollity and Feasting than befits the Occasion; and to gain time to make their Preparations, they commonly Transport their Dead to Vaults within, or adjoyning to their Churches, where they remain unburied some Months, and sometimes several Years; but of late these, and other unnecessary Expences begin by degrees to be laid aside, as well in conformity to the Frugality of the Court, as in compliance with their present Fortunes, which are narrower now than they have formerly been.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Royal Family, and Court of Sueden.

CHARLES XI. the preſent King of *Sueden*, was born *November* the 25th, 1655. Two years after his Father, *Charles Guſtave* X. of the Houſe of *Deux Ponts*, was advanced to the Crown, upon the Abdication of Queen *Chriſtina*, whoſe Couſin-German he was, being the Son of *John Caſimir*, Prince Palatine of the *Rhine*, and *Catherine* of *Sueden*, Daughter to *Charles* IX. and Siſter to *Guſtavus Adolphus*, Queen *Chriſtina*'s Father. This Kings Mother, Princeſs *Hedwig Eleonora*, of the Houſe of *Holſtein*, and Siſter to the preſent Duke, had no other Child, and upon

upon the Deceaſe of the King her Husband, in the year 1660. was made *Regent* of the Kingdom, together with the five Great Officers of the Crown, and held that Poſt till the Year 1672. when the King, her Son, was declared Major, and took the Government.

His Majeſties Education in his Minority, by his own Genius, and the Indulgence of his Mother, (if not by the contrivance of the Principal Miniſters) was moſtly in order to a Military Life; in which Exerciſes, ſuch as Fencing, and Riding the Great Horſe, he took more pleaſure, and made better proficiency, than in ſuch Studies as required more intention of the mind. Beſides the *Suediſh* and *High-Dutch* Languages, which his Majeſty learned in his Infancy, and ſpeaks

ſpeaks both equally well; he was not perfected in any other, having only a ſmattering of *French*, to which he hath ſo great an Averſion, that he will neither own, nor be brought to ſpeak ſo much of it as he underſtands; which want concurring with (if not cauſing in him) a reſerved Temper, and backwardneſs to Converſation with Strangers, makes it more difficult for Foreign Miniſters to entertain his Majeſty, and himſelf uneaſy upon their Addreſſes.

None ever better conquered this Difficulty, than Mr. *Warwick*, who, having learned a little *High-Dutch*, with which he entertain'd his Majeſty in ordinary Diſcourſe, without much mixture of buſineſs, he thereby became the Favourite Foreign Miniſter, and had the Honour to be ſingled out

out by his Majeſty on all occaſions.

In the year 1674. his Majeſty was Crowned, and preſently after engaged in a War that gain'd him an eminent degree both of Experience and Honour, having never loſt a Battle in which he was Perſonally preſent.

At the Concluſion of the War, *Anno* 1680. he married the Princeſs *Ulrica Eleonora*, Siſter to the King of *Denmark*, a Lady as Eminent for Piety, Virtue, Wiſdom, and all other Qualities, truly Great and Noble, as for her Birth and Extraction. Theſe, with her great Charity to the Poor, and Liberality to all, have gain'd her the Hearts of the whole Nation, and ſurmounted the Averſion they naturally have to thoſe of her Country. By her his Majeſty hath already had Seven

Seven Children; five Princes, four of which are Dead; and two Princeſſes, and has fair hopes of a more numerous Iſſue.

The King is of a Middle Stature, and well-ſet, his Hair brown, of a healthful and vigorous Conſtitution, and Sanguine Complexion, never attacqued with any Violent Sickneſs, but what has been occaſion'd by ſome outward Accidents; of which two eſpecially have endangered his Life: one was in the War, when his Majeſty riding on the Ice, it brake, and he fell into the Water, which brought him into a Fever, that he narrowly eſcaped. The other happened by the fall off his Horſe, when he broke his Leg, and was ſo ill treated by his Surgeons, that beſides the danger of his Life

Life then, the effects of their miſcarriage, are ſtill ſeen in his Majeſties halting. There have happened to him two Accidents more, which have impaired his Strength, and it's fear'd may ſhorten his Days. One was, That at Hunting, Monſieur *Wachmaſter* being in danger to be kill'd by a Bear, the King was ſo eager to reſcue him, that he broke a Vein, and was then like to have bled to Death, and ſince hath been ſubject to bleeding upon any motion. The other was, That his Majeſty hath formerly accuſtomed himſelf to ride Poſt ſuch long Stages, and with ſo great ſpeed, that he hath often been near ſuffocated by the heat; the expence of his Spirits, and the Agitation of his Blood, whereof the effects are ſtill obſerved, and feared by thoſe about him.

He

He poſſeſſes many Excellent and Princely Qualities, an Exemplary Piety, and Religious Diſpoſition, that ſhews its ſelf in all his Actions; and invincible Courage, that has oft expoſed his Perſon to great dangers, not only in his Wars, but in his Divertiſements.

His Chaſtity and Temperance are very regular at leaſt; if there be any Inſtances of his failing in the latter upon any extraordinary Occaſion or Entertainment, he hath never been known, or ſcarce ſuſpected to violate the former.

Frugality is practiſed by his Majeſty in a high degree, and his Parſimonious Temper appears on all Occaſions; that if his Subjects think him too preſſing for Money, they have the Satisfaction to ſee and believe that it

it is laid either out, or up for their Good, not expended in profuſe Liberalities, or vain Divertiſements, to which his Majeſty is a perfect Stranger; neither delighted with Plays, Gaming, or any other Recreations, beſides Riding, Fencing, and Hunting.

His peaceable Demeanour may perhaps more juſtly be aſcribed to the State of his Affairs, than his own Nature, which more powerfully inclines him to the Fatigue of a Camp, than the Eaſe of a Court; and ſuits better with a Martial Familiarity, than the ſhews of Grandeur, and the Solemnities of State. The Cholerick Temper that hath been incident to all his Anceſtors, hath ſometimes carried him to low Expreſſions of his Anger, as well towards the greater

as

as meaner ſort of his Subjects; but the fit is uſually ſoon over, and is recompenced by his placability and readineſs to forgive thoſe that have offended him.

His Reſpect to his Mother ſeems to equal, if not exceed, his Kindneſs to his Conſort, who hath the Satisfaction of his Conſtancy, but little ſhare in his Secrets, and not very much of his Converſation, which he frequently beſtows on the Queen-Mother, and uſually eats in her Apartment.

His Majeſty's moſt diligent Inſpection into all the Affairs of his Kingdom, beſides that it makes all his Miniſters more circumſpect, hath gain'd him a great ſtock of Experience. The ſmalleſt matters are not below his notice, and nothing of any

moment is concluded, before he hath been conſulted; this is the Employment of all his time, ſcarce any hour of the Day paſſing from five in the Morning, when he conſtantly riſes, in which buſineſs of one nature or other, is not before him.

The Frugality of his Majeſties Temper, is every where viſible in his Court, in which there is little regard had to Splendor and Magnificence, either in Furniture, Tables, or Attendants, or other things of that Nature. The Principal Officer of the Court, is the Upper Marſhal, formerly called the Marſhal of the Kingdom, which Office is now held by Count *John Steenbeck*; next to him, are the Marſhal and Intendant of the Court, with about eight or ten that are ſtiled Gentlemen of the Court, who wait at

at the King's Table. That which makes the beſt Appearance, is the Foot-Guards, which conſiſt of 2200 Men, of which one Company is always in the Caſtle, and the other in the other parts of the City. The Collonel of the Guards is next the King's Perſon in all Publick Solemnities; and the Captain that has the Watch, lies in the Room next to his Majeſty's Bedchamber. There is another Guard of 250 Men, of which about ten at a time wait on Foot with Halberts, and on Horſeback, when the King travels in Ceremony.

Next to the King, the Queen-Mother is ranked both in the Addreſſes of *Foreign* Miniſters, and on all other occaſions.

She is a Princeſs of great Virtue and Goodneſs, and would be more eſteemed, if ſhe were not

diverted from the Exerciſe of Liberality, by the Inclination ſhe has to Building, which ſhe has gratified in the Structure of a very Magnificent Houſe, about ſix Miles from *Stockholm*; it has one Front towards a great Lake, and the other looks upon a Garden of a Thouſand Yards long, adorned with very fine and choice Statues, the Spoils of *Germany* and *Denmark*, and a great number of *Caſcades*, that are ſupplied with very good Water from an Eminence about a Mile diſtant.

Her Court and Revenue is governed by Count *Charles Gyldenſtern*, and next to him is the Marſhal of her Court, and other Officers; as alſo a Governeſs of the Maids of Honour, who are ſix, with other inferior Servants.

The Queen Conſort, beſides what has already been ſaid of her,

her, is a great lover of Reading, and together with the *Northern* Languages, ſpeaks *French* perfectly well; ſhe is of a Melancholy Diſpoſition, and lives very retired, ſeldom ſtirring out of her own Apartment, and that of the Prince and Princeſſes.

The Elder Princeſs was born in the Year 1681. And the Prince in the Year following; both of a delicate Conſtitution, of great hopes, and Educated with much care. The Younger Princeſs was born *Anno* 1688.

CHAP. IX.

Of his MAJESTY's *Government.*

HIS Majeſty was no ſooner Crowned, but he found himſelf engaged in the War then on foot; and eſpouſed the *French* Intereſt, in Conſideration of a Subſidy of 200000 *l.* a Year, in which the firſt Blow was the Defeat of *Feldt* Marſhal *Wrangel*, and his Army in *Germany*; a Diſaſter ſo little foreſeen, or provided for, that it made a more eaſy way for all the Miſeries that enſued upon it, and gave the King more eminent Occaſions of ſhewing his Courage in defence of his Kingdoms and People; for as the Succeſs of that Action

Action turned the Byaſs of the *Daniſh* Councels, and preſented the favourable opportunity they expected, to engage in the War, which they began with the ſurprizal of *Holſtein*, and the Taking of *Wiſmar*, and thence tranſlated it into *Schonen*; ſo that when the King was called into thoſe Parts to make Head againſt the *Danes*, he found the effects of his Miniſters Deficiency in making due Preparations; Four of the Six Fortified Places of that Province being already in the Enemies hands, and the Inhabitants at liberty to expreſs their Affections for *Denmark*.

To encounter theſe Difficulties, and a more Potent Enemy, aſſiſted by more Powerful Confederates, the King at firſt had but a Handful of Men, and empty Magazines; the Forces

of the Kingdom being ſcatter'd into *Germany* and *Leifland*, the Borders of *Norway*, and the Sea-Service; from all which places his Majeſty received nothing but accounts of Loſſes and Misfortunes; ſo that the Fortune of *Sueden*, and all its Ancient Glory, ſeem'd to be confin'd to his Majeſty's Perſon and his little Army, with which in the compaſs of One Year, he won Three Pitch'd Battels; and in one of them he is ſaid to have Charged Thirteen times at the Head of a Brigade; and yet, which is very remarkable, doth value himſelf for not having drawn the Blood of any one man.

In the courſe of this War the King gain'd a great Stock of Military Experience, without any Tincture of thoſe Vices that com-

commonly prevail in a Camp; and was ſo indefatigable, and perpetually employed, that he ſcarce had his Boots off in Three Years time: The Streights he was often reduced to, taught him many excellent Leſſons, eſpecially the Neceſſity of putting the Kingdom into a better Poſture of Defence than he found it: Beſides, his Officers, with the chief Miniſters about him, Baron *John Guldenſtiern*, made it their buſineſs to poſſeſs his Majeſty with an ill opinion of the Senate, and diſcovered the Malverſations that the Ruling Lords had been guilty of in his Minority; which ſunk ſo deep with him, that as his diſpleaſure fell upon ſome of thoſe Lords during the War, and a Slight upon them all, neither communicating his Counſels, nor

nor acquainting them with the Succeſs of his Actions, which they were left to learn from Paſſengers and Maſters of Ships; ſo after the Concluſion of the Peace, and his return to *Stockholm* in the year 1680, his Majeſty call'd together the States of the Kingdom, and gave them a Summary Account of the State of Affairs during the War, and the Iſſue of it, and propoſed to them to inſpect the Occaſions of the great Loſſes the Kingdom had ſuſtain'd, to find out means to deliver the Government from the Streights (or rather States) it laboured under, and to conſult for its further Security.

The *Odium* of all the Loſſes and Misfortunes of the War, was eaſily fix'd upon the Miniſters that had managed Affairs in

in the King's Minority; and therefore a Committee was choſen out of the ſeveral Bodies of the States, to enquire into the Miſcarriages and Evil Counſels of thoſe Miniſters, and paſs Sentence upon the Delinquents: And to this end the Regiſters of the Council were examin'd, the dammage ariſing from each Reſolution computed, and every Senator that had Voted therein was charged with his Proportion of it; and that with ſo much Rigour, that their whole Eſtates have not ſufficed to make Satisfaction: To this the States alſo found, that the Power the Senators attributed to themſelves, had helped to produce theſe bad effects, and therefore declared, That as they the States needed no ſuch Mediators between the King and them; ſo neither did they

they find, that the Article of his Majeſty's Coronation-Oath, (in which he had promiſed to rule the Kingdom with the Advice of the Senators) did oblige him to think it neceſſary any longer to have their Concurrence to any Counſels he thought fit to take; or continue their Salaries to more of them than he was pleaſed to employ: Upon which ſeveral of them were laid aſide; and the reſt, inſtead of their former Title of Counſellors, or Senators of the Kingdom, were ſtiled the King's Counſellors; a Method which perhaps in time may coſt the Crown dear, there being left none to bear the Burthen between the King and the Complainants. And to give greater ſtrength to this, the States declared alſo, That tho the Regents, during a Mi-

a Minority, might be called to account for their Adminiſtration; yet his Majeſty, who received his Crown from God, was only accountable to God for his Actions, and tied by no other Engagements than what his Coronation-Oath imported; namely, To rule the Kingdom according to Law: Which Article was further explain'd in the following Convention.

To remedy the great Neceſſities the Government was reduc'd to, and diſcharge the vaſt Debts contracted in the War, ſeveral very Important Concluſions were made; for both a very large Benevolence was granted, towards which every perſon in the Kingdom that receiv'd Wages paid the Tenth Peny; every whole Farm Five Crowns, which is near as much

much as the uſual Rent of thoſe Farms; and the Cities a proportionable Contribution; and that for Two Years, or if a War happened, for Four: And a Reſolution was taken to eſtabliſh a New Colledge of Reduction, with Power to reunite to the Crown all ſuch Lands, as by former Kings had been alienated by way of Donation, or ſold at an undervalue.

The Choice of the Members of this Colledge, and the Particulars of their Inſtructions, were left to his Majeſty; the States only preſcribing ſome general Bounds, and eſpecially providing, That of ſuch Lands as were to be reunited, the value of 70 *l.* a year ſhould be left to the Poſſeſſor.

The care of the future Security of the Kingdom the States recom-

recommended to his Majeſty, praying him to make ſuch an Eſtabliſhment of the Militia, and Preparation of the Fleet and Fortreſſes, as ſhould appear needful: So favourable was this Conjuncture for the Advancement of the King's Authority, that he ſcarce needed to ask whatever he deſired; each Body of the States ſtriving which ſhould outbid the other in their Conceſſions. The Nobility and Gentry, who univerſally depend on the King, as not being able to ſubſiſt upon their own private Fortunes, without ſome additional Office, were under a Neceſſity to comply with every thing, rather than hazard their preſent Employments, or future Hopes of Advancement; their Intereſt therefore obliged them to keep pace with the Officers of the Army

my that ſate in their Houſe, and ſome others of their Brethren, who vigorouſly promoted the King's Affairs.

The Clergy, Burghers, and Peaſants, were eaſily perſuaded, That the Miſeries they had ſuffered, proceeded from the too great Power of the Nobility; that the King could never be too much truſted, his Majeſty having ſo oft expoſed his Life to the greateſt Dangers in Defence of his Subjects, it was their Duty to make all the grateful Returns they were able; beſides, they were glad of an occaſion of humbling the Nobility, who in Proſperity were always imperious, and concluded, that the burthen falling upon them, would redound to their own eaſe.

Theſe Diſpoſitions of the People, added to the exceſſive Affection

ction they had for the King's Perſon, from an Opinion of his Piety, and Admiration of his Courage, gave him an opportunity to lay the Foundations of as *Abſolute a Sovereignty*, as any Prince in *Europe* poſſeſſes. The Project of which great Alteration, his Majeſty (as was ſuppoſed) received from Baron *John Gyldenſtiern*, a Miniſter of Great Abilities, and as great an Enemy to the Senate: He had waited on the King in the War, and drawn to himſelf the Management of all weighty Affairs, and perhaps expected to hold the ſame Poſt upon this Great Revolution, which in the former Conſtitution he could not hope; but before this Aſſembly, and ſoon after his return from an Embaſſy in *Denmark*, he died, not without ſuſpicion of Foul play.

Upon these Foundations his Majesty, after the Separation of the States, set his Ministers earnestly to work, and with an Unwearied Application took Cognizance of their Proceedings.

Foreign Affairs were committed to Count *Benedict Oxenstiern*, Monsieur *Ehrenstien*, and Monsieur *Oernstedt*, persons of great Experience and Abilities: The Count began to be employ'd in Publick Affairs at the Treaty of *Munster*, at which he was for some time, and has since been for the most part in Embassies; especially in *Germany*, and was then return'd from the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, where he had ('tis said upon his Lady's account) entertain'd a violent Aversion to *France*; and being made President of the Chancery in the room of Count *Magnus de la Gardie*, who was laid aside, he took care to give his

his Majeſty the ſame Impreſſions, laying before him how that Court, by corrupting his Miniſters, had engag'd *Sueden* in the War, of which his Majeſty had felt the miſeries; and was forced to ſit down with the Loſs of ſome Territories in *Germany*, beſides Forty Sail of good Ships, and above 100000 men; all which might either have been prevented or repair'd, if *France* had not ſacrific'd *Sueden* to its own Intereſt: That the Subſidy was rather diſtributed by *French* Commiſſaries, and employ'd in their own Service, than paid to his Majeſty, who oft times in his greateſt need could not be ſupplied out of that Fund: That his Majeſty could neither be Maſter of his own Counſels, nor make any tolerable Figure in *Europe*, ſo long as he was eſteemed a Penſioner and a Mercenary.

These and the like Reasons moved the King to command each Member of the Privy Council to put in Writing what Measures they thought advisable for him to take, in relation to Foreign Affairs; in which some of them argued very warmly for *France*; but the Reasons on the other side were more prevalent with his Majesty, who thereupon took such Resolutions as produced the *Guaranty* League with *Holland*, and other Counsels, that *Sueden* has since pursu'd.

For the management of Affairs at Home, his Majesty employed Baron *Claudius Flemingh*, whose Father having been ill used by the Regents in the King's Minority, had left him several Projects, that fell in with the Designs on foot, and enabled him to go through with the Reduction of Crown-Lands, being made President of that

that Colledge, and aſſiſted with a competent number of Aſſeſſors: He began to examine the Titles of thoſe that held any Lands that had formerly belonged to the Crown; and where any ſuch were found to have been alienated by way of Donation for pretended Services, or were ſituated in forbidden places, (that is, within Six miles of any of the King's Caſtles) they were reunited to the Crown without further diſpute; the Value of 70 *l. per An.* being reſerved to the Poſſeſſor: As to Crown-Lands that had been ſold, enquiry was made into the nature of the Price, and the Real Value of the Eſtate. Where Ready Money had been paid, the Intereſt of 5 *per Cent.* was allowed for it; and if the Yearly Value of the Eſtate exceeded that Intereſt, the ſaid Overplus, and the

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Intereſt of it at 8 *per Cent.* from the firſt Alienation, was computed, and frequently made to amount to as much as the Capital it ſelf; which being by that means ſatisfied, the Eſtate return'd to the King. Where Lands had been given in Payment of Arrears, there no Intereſt was allow'd, the Capital being accounted unfruitful; ſo that the Yearly Value of ſuch Lands, together with the Intereſt, was deducted from the Principal; which being ſoon eaten out, not only the Lands return'd to the King, but the Poſſeſſor alſo became indebted to him; and he was to accept it as an Act of Grace, if his Majeſty took the Lands, and forgave the Debt.

By theſe Methods the King recover'd a very great Revenue, tho with the Impoveriſhing of moſt Families in *Sueden*, and many of them

them, ſuch whoſe Anceſtors, and themſelves alſo had ſpent their Lives and Fortunes in the Crown's Service, which Conſiderations could not be regarded, nor Exceptions made in favour of any in particular, without adding to the Diſcontents of all the reſt, who more patiently ſuffered, while the Caſe was general.

The ſame Baron *Flemingh* was alſo made preſident of the Treaſury, and of the Colledge of Liquidation, a Court erected not only to be a Barrier to the Treaſury, and keep all Creditors off, till their Accounts were firſt ſtated and approved in that Colledge; but his buſineſs was alſo to find out ſuch as were any ways indebted to the King, to form the Charge againſt them, and demand Payment, which was not to be refuſed upon pretence (as

it ſometimes was the Caſe) that the Party had greater Sums due from the Crown, but the King's Debt was to be paid firſt, and without any delay, and the Party left to State his Accounts afterwards in the Colledge of Liquidation. And wherein ſuch Acts were uſed towards many, by making (as they call them) Obſervations upon the Price, the time of delivering the Species of Money, and the like, that ſeveral of the King's Debts have been paid without a farthing of Money, and not a few Pretenders have thereby been made Debtors to the King, and payment extorted with great Rigour.

The payment of the Fleet, his Majeſty committed to Baron *Hans Wachtmeiſter*, (in the place of the Great Admiral, Count *Steenbeck*) who prevailed to have it removed from

from *Stockholm*, its ordinary Station, to a Harbor fortified for that purpoſe in the Province of *Bleaking*, and named *Carlſcrone*, as being both nearer to *Denmark*, and *Germany*, earlier free from Ice in the Spring, and the Parts adjacent abounding with Timber. In that, and other places, great diligence was uſed, both to repair the Old Ships, which amounted not to Twenty Sail, and to build New Ones, of which ſince that time, about Twenty from Eighty to Forty Guns; and Eight or Ten of leſs force, have been built by Two *Engliſh*, and other Maſter-builders.

The Eſtabliſhment of the *Militia*, his Majeſty made his own peculiar Care, as having more immediately felt the Effects of the Diſorder it had been in, and learnt by Experience the neceſſity of

of ſuch a Standing Force, as might anſwer the ends of its Inſtitution.

In what manner his Majeſty proceeded herein, ſhall be ſhown in another place.

In this Interval, his Majeſty publiſhed ſeveral new Laws; one againſt *Duels*, the ſubſtance of which is already mentioned; another to fix the Right of Precedency among the Nobility and Officers; wherein next after the Privy-Counſellors, the Soldiers are principally conſidered; each conſiderable Office, being ranked according to its Dignity and Precedency, determined according to that Rank, without any reſpect to Birth or Quality.

At the next Aſſembly of the States in the Year 1683. beſides a benevolence equal to that granted the laſt Seſſions, his Majeſty obtained

obtained ſuch farther Advantages, as the ends he deſigned did require; for not only the *Reunion* of the 70 *l.* a year reſerved by the former Seſſion, was conſented to, and that without the leaſt difficulty, becauſe thoſe of the Nobility that had loſt moſt, did thereby revenge themſelves of the Officers of the Army: And others, who had been the great Sticklers in the Reduction, by which themſelves had loſt little or nothing, if the Reſervation of 70 *l. per Annum* had ſtood; but the Article *of ruling the Kingdom according to Law*, was alſo further explained, and the States declared, That his Majeſty was not thereby tied to the Laws then in being, but might alter the ſame, and add thereto ſuch Conſtitutions, as he thought moſt uſeful for the preſent State of the Kingdom; and that whatever Inſtructions

ſtructions he pleaſed to give any Colledge or Officer, the ſame were a Law to them, and all others that they concerned, added only this, That they hop'd his Majeſty would communicate to the States ſuch Laws as were of a general Nature, and intended to be binding to the whole Kingdom. And whereas his Majeſty had laid before the States, the undue Proceedings of the Miniſters at his Father's Death, whoſe *Teſtament* they reſcinded, and alter'd the Frame of the Government, he had preſcribed to be obſerv'd in the King's Minority; the States declared, That the Authors of thoſe Alterations, were no honeſt *Patriots*, and left them to the King's Juſtice, promiſing that in caſe of his Majeſty's Deceaſe, during his Succeſſor's Minority, they would ſee his Teſtament punctually fulfilled, and the

the Form of Government thereby preſcribed, inviolably obſerved.

The next Aſſembly of the States in 1686. renewed the uſual Benevolence which was asked to enable the King to pay his Debts, and made ſome further Conceſſions in the matter of the *Re-union*, rather to take off the Odium from the King and his Miniſters, than to add any Authority to his Majeſty's Proceedings.

Theſe and the like Conceſſions, have rendred his Majeſty an *Abſolute Monarch*, to which his Subjects ſubmit without any conteſt; and had not thoſe other preſſures that accompanied it made it uneaſy, there would ſcarce have been found in that Loyal Kingdom any one Perſon diſaffected to the Government; but the loſs of Eſtates, they ſuppoſed to have right to, has created Diſcontents in many of the

the Nobility and Gentry, and the frequent and heavy Taxes impoſed by the States are no leſs ſenſible to thoſe of inferior Degrees; that perhaps the King of *Sueden* has loſt as much in the Affection of his Subjects, as he has gain'd in his Revenue; yet this is not like to produce any bad Effects, ſince the King knows ſo well how to make himſelf obeyed, and has ſuch effectual means in his hands, not only to reſtrain any diſorders, but to engage the greateſt part of the Nation to his Intereſt.

For the Diſtribution of all Imployments of any Value in the Kingdom, belongs to his Majeſty; and the Nobility and Gentry, as well as others, are under a greater neceſſity than ever, of rendring themſelves acceptable to him, that they may get Employments.

ments. Beſides, his Majeſty has lately thought fit to cauſe all that are in Office to renew their Oath of Fidelity; the Tenor of which has been accommodated to the preſent Government. The Inſtructions alſo of all Governors of Provinces, and other, both Civil and Military Officers, have been reviſed and renewed: And as a new Body of Laws Eccleſiaſtical is already publiſhed; ſo the Common Laws of the Kingdom are under Conſideration, to be rendred more plain, full, and ſuitable to the preſent State of things, according to the mind of the King, and thoſe that are his Adviſers in this Change; yet all this Power and Proviſion is not by the Court it ſelf thought ſufficient to keep an Oppreſſed People from Diſorders; nor would it likely long do ſo, if the King did not by great

Appli-

Applications and Deferences court the *Clergy*, and by no ſmall degrees of Compliance with them, not only in Eccleſiaſtical, but even in Civil Affairs, cultivate their Fidelity and Affection; and this, becauſe the *Prieſts* have very great and uncontroulable Intereſt and Authority among the Common People (who only can make Diſturbances) and can at their pleaſure inflame, or appeaſe them.

CHAP.

Chap. X.

Of the Privy-Council.

THE Ancient Conſtitution, which gave them the Title of Senators of the Kingdom, gave them alſo Authority, not only to adviſe in all buſineſs of Importance, but in ſome Caſes to admoniſh and over-rule the King, who was not at Liberty to tranſact any weighty Affairs without the Concurrence of a majority of the Senate; and tho the King choſe them, yet the States received their Oath, which rather expreſt their Fidelity to the Kingdom in general, than to the King; their Office was for Life, and not only attempts upon their Perſon, but Defamation of them, was accounted Treaſon.

But the *Late Revolution* has effectually delivered the King from this (as they call it) Encroachment upon Royalty and Prerogative, and reduced thoſe Officers to the Title, and proper Duties of Privy-Counſellors, putting it into the King's Power to employ them as he thinks fit, to ask their Counſel as he ſees occaſion, and to lay ſuch of them aſide, as he finds convenient, which his Majeſty accordingly practices; ſome of them being laid aſide, and the remainder, together with thoſe the King hath added to them, are diſperſt into various Imployments, and very rarely meet in a Body; his Majeſty tranſacting all Affairs, both *Domeſtick* and *Foreign*, with the proper Officers, to whom they are immediately intruſted, without the Participation of the whole

whole Council. The number of Privy-Counſellors is at preſent about Eighteen, each of them has a Salary of 300 *l.* a year, and moſt have other beneficial Employments.

CHAP. XI.

Of the States of Sueden.

THE Boundleſs Liberality of the three laſt Seſſions of the States hath left that Body little more than its Ancient Name, and a Power of Conſent to ſuch Impoſitions as the King's Occaſions require, which he chuſes rather to receive through their hands, than imploy his Authority in a matter ſo apt to Adminiſter occaſion of Diſcontent: Their uſual time of Aſſembly, is once in three Years, or oftner, if the Affairs of the Kingdom require it. The Letters for calling them together, are ſent to the Governors of Provinces, who thereupon write to each Nobleman and Gentleman in their Province, and to the Biſhops,

ſhops, who cauſe the ſame to be publiſhed in all Churches.

The Body of the Nobility and Gentry are repreſented by one of each Family, of which there are about a Thouſand in *Sueden*, and with them the Collonel, Lieutenant-Collonel, Major, and one Captain of each Regiment ſit and vote.

For the Clergy, beſides the Biſhops and Superintendents in each Rural Deanery, or Ten Pariſhes, one is choſen, and maintained at the Charge of his Electors; theſe make a Body of about Two hundred.

The Repreſentatives of the Burghers are choſen by the Magiſtrates and Common-Council of each Corporation, of which *Stockholm* ſends Four, others Two, and ſome One, who make about One hundred and fifty.

The Peaſants of each Diſtrict, chuſe one of their own Quality to appear for them, whoſe Charges they bear, and give him Inſtructions in ſuch matters as they think need Redreſs; they are about Two hundred and fifty.

Their firſt meeting (when at *Stockholm*) is in a large Room in the Caſtle, called the *Hall* of the Kingdom, where his Majeſty being ſeated on a Throne, and the Privy-Counſellors ſitting at ſome diſtance, the Preſident of the Chancery makes them a Complement in the King's Name, and then a Secretary reads his Majeſty's Propoſals to them, in which they are acquainted with the State of Affairs ſince their Receſs, and the preſent occaſion of their Advice and Aſſiſtance. To which, firſt, the Marſhal of the Nobility, who is choſen by the King, returns an

anſwer

anſwer, and kiſſes the King's hand; and after him, the Archbiſhop in the Name of the Clergy; the firſt Burgher maſter of *Stockholm*, for the Burghers, and one of the Peaſans for his Brethren. They then ſeparate into four ſeveral Houſes, and chuſe a Secret Committee, compoſed of an equal Number of each Body, who receive from the King's Miniſters ſuch further Informations of his Majeſty's Pleaſure, as are not thought fit to be communicated in publick, and thereupon prepare ſuch matters as are to be propoſed to the ſeveral Bodies. In each Houſe matters are concluded by majority of Voices; and if one or more of theſe Bodies differ in Opinion from the reſt, they are either brought over by perſuaſions, or the point remains unconcluded.

When the Affairs propoſed by the King are finiſhed, they then inſinuate their Grievances, each Body ſeverally, to which the King returns ſuch Anſwers as he thinks fit; and to each Member of the three Inferiour Bodies an Authentick Copy is delivered, as well of the general Concluſion made by the whole States, as of the King's Anſwer to the Grievances of his reſpective Body, which he carries home to his Electors.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Revenue of the Kingdom.

THE ſtanding Revenues of the Kingdom of *Sueden*, ariſe from Crown-Lands, Cuſtoms, Poll-Money, Tythes, Copper and Silver-Mines, Proceedings at Law, and other leſs conſiderable Particulars; which are calculated in all to near a Million of Pounds a Year; of which the Lands make above one Third, and the Cuſtoms almoſt a Fourth. The Poll-money is paid only by the Peaſants, each of which above Sixteen, and under Sixty, pays about Twelvepence a year.

In the Treaſury-Chamber, a Preſident (now Baron *Fabian Wrede*) with Four Counſellors, and other Offi-

Officers ſit, and act as a Court of Juſtice, in ſuch matters as relate to the King's Revenue; but they make no Aſſignments, that being the buſineſs of the *Contoir* of State, in which the Commiſſary, in conjunction with the Preſident, diſpoſe of all Payments, but yet not without Orders immediately from the King: At the beginning of every Year they make a Calculation of what is likely to come in, and what will remain above the ordinary Charge; which they lay before his Majeſty, and receive his Orders what Debts ſhall firſt be paid. The greateſt part of the King's Money paſſes through the Bank, and thereby ſaves the Charge of Officers, to recieve and pay it, there being between the *Contoir* of State, and the Bank, only one *Rent-maſter* (as they ſtile him) who keeps account with them

them both, and gives Aſſignments according to the Orders he recieves.

The Revenue is ſuppoſed at preſent to exceed the ordinary Charge of the Crown; and the King having lately had three ſeveral extraordinary Contributions, and vaſt Forfeitures from the Faulty Miniſters of State, as alſo great Advantages in recovering the Debts due to the Crown, would have his Coffers well fill'd, if the Building of Ships, and paying of Debts contracted in the laſt War, had not drain'd them in ſome meaſure. In 1686 it was told the States in the King's Name, That in Six Years time his Majeſty had paid Debts to above Two Millions of Pounds (tho many of them were paid with little Money), beſides the Building of about Thirty Ships: And yet 'tis generally belie-

believed, the King is not ill provided with Ready Caſh; and there is great neceſſity for ſuch Proviſion, to ſupply any preſſing occaſion, ſince the Credit of *Sueden* is very low Abroad; and at Home the ordinary Taxes are ſo high, that the people cannot long furniſh any Additional and Extraordinary Aſſiſtances; that as the Crown has reſumed all former Liberalities, and with Rigour exacted its utmoſt Right, ſo it muſt chiefly depend upon thoſe Funds, little being to be expected from the People, and no Credit from Abroad in caſe of Extremity, ſince thoſe that have formerly truſted the Crown, have been ſo very ill uſed; and neither the States of the Kingdom, if they ſhould interpoſe their Engagements, are in a condition to make them good; nor can any Dependance

dance be made upon the Security either of the Crown-Lands, or any other Branch of the Revenue, ſince the late Reſumption of thoſe Lands, and Revocation of ſuch Securities, have deſtroy'd all future Faith.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.
Of the Forces of Sueden.

THE Reputation gain'd, and the Conqueſts made by *Sueden* in this and the laſt Age, has not ſo much been owing to its Native Strength, as to *Foreign* Aſſiſtance of *Germans*, *French*, *Engliſh*, and eſpecially *Scots*, of whom they have uſed great Numbers in all their Wars with *Moſcovy*, *Poland*, *Germany*, and *Denmark*; and by them the Art of War and Military Diſcipline has been by degrees introduced into this Nation, that in former times had only the advantage of Courage and Numbers; for tho the *Original Conſtitution* of the Countrey, and its Diviſion into Hundreds and other larger Portions, that ſtill retain *Military* Names, ſeems to have been the

the work of Armies, and the frequent Expeditions of the *Goths*, and other Inhabitants of these parts, shew, That in all Ages they were addicted to War and Violence; yet it was in a disorderly and tumultuous manner; their Infantry always consisting of unexperienced Peasants, raised for the occasion, and disbanded as soon as it was over. The *Feudal* Laws indeed (which are supposed to have had their Birth amongst these people) provided for a competent Number of Cavalry, all Estates of the Nobility and Gentry being held by Knights Service; and while the Kingdom was *Elective*, the Kings were bound to maintain some Forces of Horse out of the Revenues of the Crown; but this Establishment had been in a great measure corrupted, and the Kingdom so shatter'd with *Domestick* Broils, that it made a very

very inconſiderable Figure; and was little known in *Europe*, till the Crown became *Hereditary*, and the Intereſt of the Royal Family concerned in the Strength and Proſperity of the Nation: Since that time the Standing Forces of the Kingdom have been augmented, yet not ſo effectually eſtabliſhed as its neceſſities required; for it generally happened, that the Nobility and Gentry were ſo backward in fitting out their Horſe, and the Levies of Foot not being to be made without the conſent of the Peaſants in the Aſſembly of the States, it was ſo hardly obtain'd, that the Regiments were very thin, and Recruits extreme difficult; nor were the Officers Salaries ſo punctually paid, as to enable them to be in readineſs on all occaſions.

To remedy these Inconveniences, the present King, on whom the States had conferr'd an *Absolute Power*, to put the *Militia* into such a Method as he should think fit, has made such Regulations in all the Particulars relating to this Matter; as were requisite to bring it to Perfection.

The new *Injunctions* he has made about the *Cavalry*, that the Nobility and Gentry furnish, are so exact, that 'tis not in their power to put either the Man or the Horse that are once Listed, to other Employments than what are there specified, but must have them in a continual Readiness, whenever they are call'd upon, with such Arms and Equipage, as his Majesty hath directed. In default of which, severe Penalties are inflicted, and the Estates they hold by that Service subject to Confiscation.

For the *Infantry*, the King has taken the like Care; and whereas, formerly no Levies could be made but by *Conſent* of the States, and that but by ſmall parcels at a time, and with ſuch diſturbance, that on thoſe occaſions 'twas uſual for half the Peaſants to run into the Woods, and other hiding places to eſcape being made Soldiers This has been remedied by the King's Commiſſioners, who have diſtributed the *Infantry* of each Province proportionably to the Number of Farms, each of which of the Value of about 60 or 70 *l.* a Year (not being appropriated to the Officers or other peculiar Services) is charged with one Foot Soldier, who receives from the Farmer, Dyet, Lodgings, ordinary Cloaths, and about Twenty Shillings a Year in Money; or elſe, a little Wooden Houſe is built for him

him at the Farmer's Charge, who muſt alſo furniſh him with as much Hay, as will keep a Cow in Winter, and Paſturage in Summer, and Plow and Sow for him ſuch a parcel of Ground as will afford him Bread; they that are marry'd, (as many of them are,) generally accept this latter Condition; the unmarried Soldiers uſually abide with the Farmer, but are not bound to do him any Service without Wages; when they have once taken the Peaſants Money, and are Liſted in the King's Service, they can never quit ſo long as they are able to ſerve, and if they deſert, are puniſhed with Death: The firſt Inſtitution of this Method was very burdenſome to the Peaſants, who were at great Charge to hire their Men, which coſt them 10 and ſometimes 20 *l.* apiece, and the ſame they muſt

do whenever their Soldier dies. This in peaceable times will not be ſo chargeable, as it is in times of War; when Men will be unwilling to ſerve, and Recruits more frequently needed; and as this is part of the Project hitherto unexperienced, ſo moſt believe it will be found very difficult, if not impracticable.

As all the common Soldiers are thus provided for at the Country's Charge, ſo all Officers both of Horſe and Foot are maintained by the King, who hath appropriated ſo much of the Lands lately *reunited*, or formerly belonging to the Crown, to that purpoſe. So that every Officer has a convenient Houſe, and competent Portion of Land to live upon, ſituate in that part of the Country, where the Regiment he belongs to is quartered; as alſo the Rent

of

of ſo many other Farms as make up his pay, (which tho' it be ſomewhat leſs than formerly,) yet being punctually paid either in Money, Corn or other Comodities, they find it more profitable, than when they were to ſolicite for it at the Treaſury.

A Colonel of *Foot* has, of theſe Lands the yearly Rent of about 300 *l.* and the reſt proportionably, which amounts to about 2500 *l.* a Year, for all the Officers both upper and under, of one Foot Regiment. And there being in *Sweden*, *Finland* and *Liefland* 28 Regiments of Foot, under this Eſtabliſhment the Maintenance of all the Officers belonging to them, coſts the King about 70000 *l.* a Year; what Charge the Cloathing of the common Soldiers once in two or three Years, their Arms and ſuch other Neceſ-

ſaries may put the King to, cannot be ſo eaſily computed.

The Officers of *Horſe* are provided for after the ſame manner with ſuch large Allowance as is requiſite. There are Fifteen Regiments of *Horſe* thus eſtabliſhed, and the Maintenance of their Officers is computed to be about 80000 *l.* a Year, all which ariſes from the Rents of Crown Lands, as do alſo the Wages of *Civil* Officers in the Country, who have Farms annex'd to their Employments, in the ſame manner as the *Militia.*

The Laws the King hath made for maintaining this Conſtitution are every exact and particular, and provide with great Caution, that neither the Peaſants ſhall be oppreſs'd, nor the Lands and Houſes ruin'd; to which end all ſuch Lands are yearly viſited, and the Poſ-

Poſſeſſor compell'd to make ſuch Repairs as are found needful; and as every Officer upon his firſt coming to ſuch an Eſtate, ſubſcribes an Inventory of it, ſo upon Advancement he cannot take Poſſeſſion of another Charge, till he hath put that Eſtate into as good a Condition as he found it, and in caſe of Death his Heirs cannot inherit, till that be done.

In times of Peace, all Treſpaſſes and Crimes comitted by the Soldiery fall ordinarily under the Cognizance of a Civil Magiſtrate, who has the ſame Authority over them, as over the reſt of the King's Subjects, except when they are encamped, or in Garriſon, or any way under *flying Colours*; in all which Caſes, as alſo in all Matters that relate ſolely to their Profeſſion, their Officers have Juriſdiction over them, without whoſe

leave a private Soldier is not permitted to lodge out of his Quarters, nor be abſent a day from the Pariſh he belongs to; the inferior Officers cannot be abſent from their Charge, but by the Colonel's Permiſſion, nor Captains and thoſe above them without the King's leave; and the good Effect of the Officers conſtant Reſidence, upon their reſpective Charges, appears in the quiet and peaceable Behaviour of the Soldiers, who have not hitherto broke out into any Enormities, nor given the common People any great occaſion of complaint.

To keep them in Diſcipline, each Company meets, and is exerciſed, once a Month, and every Regiment once or twice a Year, at which times only they wear the the King's Cloaths, which at their return, are carefully laid up in the Churches. For

For their Government in time of War the King hath lately cauſed the Articles of War to be reviewed and printed, together with a new Eſtabliſhment of Courts Marſhal, and Inſtructions for the *Auditors General*, and other Officers concern'd in the Miniſtration of Juſtice.

And for his Majeſty's Information on all occaſions, a Book hath been lately made, ſpecifying the Names of every Military Officer in the King's Army, the time when they firſt came into the Service, and by what Steps they have *riſen*, by which means at one view, his Majeſty knows the Merit and Services of any Officer.

The Forces in *Pomerania* and *Bremen*, as alſo the Regiment of *Foot* Guards are not under this Eſtabliſhment, but are paid in Money.

The

The whole Body of the King of *Sweden*'s Forces, according to the beſt and moſt exact Account, is as follows:

The eſtabliſh'd Militia in *Sweden*, *Finland* and *Liefland* are,	Men
Cavalry 15 Regiments, is	17000
Infantry 28 Regiments, is	35000
Foot Guards 1 Regiment,	2000
Forces in *Pomeren* and *Bremen* 6 Regiments, is	6000
In all, 50 Regiments,	60000

Each Regiment ordinarily conſiſts of 1200 Men (but ſome of more) of which 96 are Officers; and ſuch care is taken to keep them compleat, that it very ſeldom happens, that 20 Men at a time are wanting in a Regiment; and as they are always in a readineſs, ſo a great Body of them may quickly be brought together, eſpecially towards the Borders of *Den-*

Denmark and *Norway*, where in twenty Days time the King of *Sueden* can have an Army of 20000 Men.

Above the ordinary Eſtabliſhment the King hath annex'd to each Regiment about twenty ſupernumerary Farms, to anſwer any extraordinary Accidents of Fire, *&c.* and to furniſh a Subſiſtence for ſuch Officers, as are paſt Service.

For common Soldiers that Age or Wounds have rendred unfit for War, there is one general Hoſpital, which has a good Revenue, and beſides that, every Officer that is advanced, pays to it a Sum of Money proportionable to the Charge he ariſes to. A Colonel pays 100 Crowns, and others in proportion.

Beſides the Arms in the Hands of the *Militia*, there is a conſiderable

rable Magazine at *Stockholm*, and another at the Caſtle of *Jencopingh* towards the Borders of *Denmark*, and theſe, as occaſion ſerves, are furniſh'd from a conſiderable Iron-work at *Oerbro* in *Nervia* which is continually employed in making Arms of all ſorts. In the Caſtle of *Jencopingh* a Train of Artillery ſtand always in readineſs. This is the ſole *Inland* Fortreſs in *Sueden*, which leſs needs ſuch Artificial Strengths, as well for other Reaſons, as becauſe Nature in very many places has provided it with ſuch Paſſes, as that a handful of Men may defend againſt a great Army.

On the Borders of *Norway*, beſide ſome ſmall Forts, that keep the Paſſages over the Mountains, there is the Caſtle of *Bahunz* ſcituate upon a Rock in the midſt of a deep River, but overlookt by the Rocks near it. The

The City of *Gottenburgh* is a well fortified place, but wholly Commanded by the Neighbouring Hills.

The Town of *Marſtrand*, and the Caſtle of *Elfsburgh* lie towards the Sea: on that ſide towards *Denmark* are *Waerburgh*, *Halmſtad*, *Landſcrone* and *Malmo*, places of good defence. Upon the *Baltick* Shoar are *Carleſcrone* and *Calmar*, with two ſmall Forts at the entrance of the River leading to *Stockholm*. The *Northern* parts are covered with *Lapland*, the Borders of *Finland* towards *Ruſſia* with vaſt Woods and *Moraſſes*, and in ſome parts with Caſtles and Forts. In *Lieſtland*, beſides *Riga*, *Revell* and *Narva*, which are very ſtrong places, there are ſeveral conſiderable Fortreſſes.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.
Of the Trade of Sueden.

THO' *Sueden* has in all Times furniſht *Europe* with thoſe neceſſary Comodities it abounds with, yet either the Warlike Temper, the Idleneſs or Ignorance of the Inhabitants, has formerly kept them from being much concern'd in Trade, and given Strangers the Management and Advantage of it, which for a long time, the *Hans* Towns ſcituate on the *Baltick* Sea, monopolized, till the Seven Provinces of the *Netherlands* were Erected into a *Republick*, and became Sharers with them: Before that time very little Iron was made in *Sueden*, but the Oar, being

ing run into Pigs, was carried to *Dantzick*, and other Parts of *Pruſſia*, and there forged into Bars; for which reaſon the Country Smiths in *England* call Foreign Iron *Dansk* or *Spruce* Iron. The Nation owes the greateſt Improvements it has made in Trade to the Art and Induſtry of ſome ingenious Mechanicks, that the Cruelty of the Duke *de Alva* drove into theſe parts: their Succeſs invited great Numbers of *Reformed Waloons* to tranſplant thither, whoſe Language and Religion remains in the places they ſettled in, where they erected Forges and other Conveniences for making of Iron Guns, Wire, and all other Manufactures of Copper, Braſs, and Iron which for the moſt part are ſtill carried on by their Poſterity.

The

The *Swediſh* Navigation was very inconſiderable, till Queen *Chriſtina* at the Concluſion of the War in 1644. obtained from *Denmark* a Freedom from Cuſtoms for all Ships, and Goods belonging to *Swediſh* Subjects, in their Paſſage thro' the *Sound*, and eſtabliſht in her own Dominions that difference in Cuſtoms that ſtill ſubſiſts between *Swediſh* and *Foreign* Ships, and is in proportion of 4, 5, 6, the firſt called *Whole-free*, the ſecond *Half*, and the laſt *Unfree*, ſo that where a whole free *Swediſh* Ship pays 400 Crowns, half free pays 500, and a *Foreign* Veſſel 600.

But as great as this Advantage was, it had but little effect, till the *Engliſh* Act of Navigation bridled the *Hollanders*, and opened the Intercourſe between *England* and *Sueden*. Since that time their

their Commerce has been much augmented, as well as ours that way, and Goods tranſported by both, or either Party according to the various junctures of Affairs. When *Sueden* has been engaged in a War, the *Engliſh* Ships have had the whole Employ; but in times of Peace, the Advantage is ſo great on the *Swediſh* ſide, and Merchants ſo much encouraged by Freedom in Cuſtoms to employ their Ships, that *Engliſh* Bottoms cannot be uſed in that Trade, but only while *Sueden* is unprovided with a number of Ships ſufficient for the Tranſportation of their own Commodities; whether it be feaſible to lay a Duty upon *Swediſh* Ships, importing Goods into *England*, proportionable to what is laid upon *Foreign* Veſſels there, or whether the Matter be of ſo great Importance as to merit ſuch a Re-

ſolution, does not belong to this Diſcourſe to determine.

The chief Commodities *Sueden* vends, are Copper, Iron, Pitch, Tar, Maſts, Deals, and Wooden Ware, (beſides the Commodities exported from *Liefland*) to the value of about 700000 *l.* a Year, in return of which they receive from abroad Salt, Wines, and Brandy, Cloth, Stuffs, Tobacco, Sugar, Spices, Paper, Linnen, and ſeveral other ſorts of Goods which are ſuppoſed commonly to ballance their Exportations, and ſometimes exceed them.

Their Trade to *Portugal* for Salt is accounted moſt neceſſary, as without great quantities of which they cannot ſubſiſt. That with *England* is more beneficial, becauſe it takes off almoſt half their own Commodities, and brings in near two thirds of Money for one of

of Goods. The worſt is their *French* Trade, in regard it rather ſupplies their Vanities, than Neceſſities, and gives little or no vent to the Commodities of the Country.

The general Direction of their Trade belongs to the Colledge of Commerce, which conſiſts of the Preſident of the Treaſury, and Four Councellors, who hear Cauſes of that nature, and redreſs any Diſorders that happen. The Bank at *Stockholm* is of great benefit to Trade, as well in regard that the King's Cuſtoms for that City are paid in there, as alſo that the Merchants ordinarily make Payments to each other by Bills drawn upon it, which eaſes them of a great Trouble in Tranſporting their Money from place to place, that would otherwiſe be very difficult and chargeable. This Bank

is well conſtituted, and was in very good Credit, whilſt it had the States of the Kingdom for its Guarrantees, of which it has now but the Shadow; thoſe States being (and are now ſtiled) the Kings (not Kingdoms) States ſo that all its Foundation derives now from the Will and Pleaſure of the King, which may on ſeveral occaſions diminiſh not only its own Sufficiency, but alſo the Confidence of thoſe that make uſe of it. The Management of the Trade of *Sueden* has always in the main been in the Hands of Strangers, moſt of the Natives wanting either Capacity or Application, and all of them Stocks to drive it; for without Credit from abroad, they are not able to keep their Iron-works going: and therefore at the beginning of Winter, they uſually make Contracts with the *Engliſh*, and

and other Foreigners, who then advance conſiderable Sums, and receive Iron in Summer; Were it not for this neceſſity, Foreign Merchants would have but little Encouragement, or ſcarcely Permiſſion to Live and Trade amongſt them, and even as the Caſe ſtands, their Treatment of them is as rigorous, as in any Country, occaſioned chiefly by the Envy of the Burghers, who cannot with any Patience ſee a Stranger thrive among them. This is leſs ſenſible to *Hollanders* and others, many of whom become Burghers, and the reſt by their near way of Living are leſs ſubject to Envy, but is more eſpecially the Caſe of the *Engliſh* Merchants, who find it not their Intereſt to become Burghers, and uſually live ſomewhat too high.

The Intereſt of *England* in the Trade of *Sueden* may be computed, by the Neceſſity of their Commodities to us, and the vent of ours there; their Copper, Iron, Tar, Pitch, Maſts, *&c.* cannot be had elſewhere, except from *America*, whence it has been ſuppoſed ſuch Supplies may be furniſhed; and if ſo, this Conſideration ought in reaſon to have an Influence on the *Swediſh* Councels, and engage them to make the *Engliſh* Trade with them as eaſie as poſſible, that the Merchants be not driven upon new Deſigns.

As to our Importations thither, it has already been ſaid, that they ſcarce amount to one third of what we export from thence, and conſiſt chiefly of Cloth, Stuffs, and other Woollen Manufactures, of which has been formerly vended yearly there to the value of about

about 50000 *l.* beſides theſe, Tobacco, *New-Caſtle* Coals, Pewter, Lead, Tin, Fruits and Sugar, with ſeveral other of our Commodities are ſold at this Market; as alſo good quantities of Herrings from *Scotland*, with other of their Wares, that in all we are ſuppoſed to vend Goods to about 100000 *l.* a Year, whereof if any more than half be paid for, it is extraordinary. But the making of Cloth in *Sueden* to ſupply the Army, *&c.* which has been formerly endeavoured without Succeſs, being now encouraged and aſſiſted by the Publick, and undertaken by ſome *Scots* and others, has of late, and does now prove a great hindrance to the Vent of our Cloth there. And to favour this Undertaking, *Engliſh* Cloth is now, (unleſs it be ſuch finer Cloths as cannot be

made here) clogg'd with ſuch exceſſive Duties, as render the Importation of it impracticable. Theſe Undertakers have got Workmen from *Germany*, and ſome from *England*, and beſides the *German* Wool they uſe, they receive great quantities from *Scotland* (ſuppoſed to be practiced out of *England*) without which they cannot work. Yet as at preſent, the *Engliſh* Trade in *Sueden*, is of the Importance above mentioned, notwithſtanding the Abatements aforeſaid, it is however conſiderable, and will be ſo, while their Commodities continue to be neceſſary, and thoſe that are concern'd in it, will deſerve as they need, Protection and Encouragement.

The laſt Treaty of Commerce between the Two Nations expired ſeveral Years ago; and that of an older Date neither ſuits the preſent

ſent State of Things, nor has been thought by the *Suedes* to ſubſiſt; tho' now for their own Intereſt they inſiſt upon the contrary, accordingly their Treatment of the *Engliſh* is only in reference to their own convenience. And as the Subject of former Complaints ſtill remains, ſo new Burthens are frequently impoſed upon them: Sometimes they have demanded of Merchants that were leaving the Country, a ſixth part of the Eſtate they had got in it, and arreſted their Effects on that account. And beſides others, that more directly concern their Trade, the quartering of Soldiers, and paying of Contributions has been exacted for ſome Years, and ſometimes the *Engliſh* forced to ſubmit to it.

The

In the Year 1687. upon their Petition to the King, for redreſs of theſe Impoſitions which were than laid very high, upon ſome above 50 *l.* upon others 40, 30, *&c.* beſides that ſuch of them as kept Houſe had Soldiers quartered upon them, ſome 3, 6, or 8. In anſwer to their Petition, a *Placaet* was publiſh'd, declaring that they ſhould be exempt from thoſe Payments; but withal, that no *Foreign* Merchant ſhould continue to Trade in *Sueden* above Two Months in a Year, unleſs he would become a Burgher. In purſuance of which Reſolution their Warehouſes were ſhut up for ſome time, and the *Suedes* ſeem reſolved to proceed to extremity; but have not put that Reſolution generally in Execution, tho' they ſeem to wait for an Opportunity, and now and then they try it upon particular

lar Perſons, to ſee how Foreign Princes will take it.

The Law that exacts the third part of ſuch *Foreign* Merchants Eſtate, as die in *Sueden*, has not in effect been ſo beneficial to the *Suedes*, as frightful to the Merchants, who (eſpecially the *Engliſh*) for that and other reaſons, never think of marrying, and ſettling there, ſo long as their Affairs are in good order, and they in a Condition to return home with a competent Eſtate and Credit; upon which account *England* ſeems to be leſs concern'd to endeavour the repeal of that Law, it being more uſeful to have *Sueden* a Nurſery for young Merchants, than a place of Settlement for thoſe that have got Eſtates.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Sueditſh *Conqueſts.*

THE ancient Expeditions of the *Goths*, and the Kingdoms they erected in *France*, *Spain*, *Italy* and elſewhere, upon the Ruins of the *Roman* Empire, have little Connexion with the preſent State of the Country, and only ſhews, that their Nation was then much more populous and powerful, than it has been in latter times, which is generally aſcribed to the uſe of *Polygamy* among them, while they were Heathens; but the Conqueſts which continue to be beneficial to *Sueden* at this day are of a much later Date.

For

For it was not till the Year 1560. that the *Suedes* got footing in *Liefland*, when the *Knights Templers*, who were Maſters of thoſe Parts, being overthrown by the *Muſcovites*, King *Erick* of *Sueden* was invited by the Inhabitants of *Revell*, and the Country adjacent, to take them into his Protection, which he conſented to; and the Door being thus opened, the Crown of *Sueden* has by degrees wreſted from the *Poles* and *Muſcovites* the greateſt part of *Liefland*, and ſome Provinces of *Ruſſia* adjoyning to it; Countries of ineſtimable value to *Sueden*, as, which both cover it from the Incurſions of the *Poles* and *Muſcovites*, and furniſh it with plentiful Supplies of Corn and other Commodities; beſides the Benefit it reaps by the vaſt Trade of thoſe Parts. On the ſide of *Denmark*, beſides

beſides *Yempterland* and *Hercadale*, Two Northerly Provinces lying oppoſite to *Norway*, they have recovered the rich Countries of *Schonen*, *Halland* and *Blecking*, which joyn to the Body of *Sueden*; and gave the *Danes*, while they poſſeſs'd them, free entrance into the very Heart of the Country. They have alſo got from the *Danes* the Territory of *Bahnus*, which prevents all Inroads from that ſide of *Norway*. Theſe, together with the Countries of *Pomerania* and *Bremen*, are ſo conſiderable, that their Writers own, that the preſent Royal Family hath augmented the Kingdom near one half; only with this Diſadvantage, that all the Neighbours of *Sueden* are thereby diſobliged, and watch all opportunities to retrieve their Loſſes; ſo that *Sueden* can never firmly depend upon the Friendſhip of

of *Denmark*, *Poland*, *Muſcovy*, or any other Neighbouring Princes.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the Intereſt of Sueden.

THE great Domeſtick Intereſt of *Sueden* has been of late thought to conſiſt in the Advancement of the King's Revenue, and Authority at home, in order to make him more formidable abroad; ſo that the Nation has had no Intereſt diſtinct from the King's; as the King on the other ſide would ſeem to have an inſeparable Connexion with the Proſperity of his Subjects in general, and moſt eſpecially of the Yeomanry, or Peaſants, who are accounted the *Baſis* of the King-

Kingdom, rather than the Trading part; therefore tho' the Peaſants have not been ſpared from bearing a conſiderable Share of the common Burthen; yet more care has been taken to make it ſit eaſie upon them, than upon the reſt, and they delivered from the Oppreſſion of the Fellow Subjects, which they formerly laboured under: the Encouragement of Trade and Manufactures is alſo the King's Care, and great Wonders are expected from it; but doubtleſs there is much more in their Imaginations, than will ever be found in the Effect.

It is alſo found the King's Intereſt to keep the Nobility and Gentry very low. In Matters of Religion his Majeſty has no other Intereſt than to maintain the preſent Eſtabliſhment, and keep the *Clergy* to the due Performance of their

their Duty, which admits of little or no difficulty.

In general the chief Domeſtick Intereſt of the King of *Sueden* is to preſerve the Government in its preſent State, and ſecure it ſuch to his Succeſſors, it being conſtituted ſo much to the Advantage of the Royal Family, that in that regard it can hardly be bettered by any Change.

In relation to *Foreign* Affairs, it is apparently the Intereſt of *Sueden* to avoid all *offenſive* War, as being already in the quiet Poſſeſſion of as many conquer'd Provinces on all ſides as it can well defend; tho' more would not diſpleaſe them, if they could be got with ſafety, to maintain a good Correſpondence with *Moſcovy* by a due Obſervation of the Treaty lately concluded, and endeavour to end the Point of Sepa-

ration of the Limits, which is the only Matter that can be like to create Trouble on that ſide with *Poland.*

Sueden has little occaſion of difference, or reaſon, to apprehend any Quarrel, neither does it ſeem the Intereſt of *Sueden* to aim at any further Enlargements in *Germany*, but rather to uſe all good Offices to preſerve the Treaty of *Munſter*, as the Foundation of its Right to *Pomerania* and *Bremen*; which Provinces are of ſuch Importance to *Sueden*, as rendring it much more conſiderable to all *Europe* than it would otherwiſe be, that they will never be parted with ſo long as *Sueden* is able to defend them.

The Intercourſe with *Denmark*, has ſeldom been friendly, nor have there ever wanted Grounds of Quarrels, when the Conjunctures were favourable; tho' at preſent

Sueden

Sueden ſeems to have little occaſion of Miſintelligence with that Crown, unleſs on the account of the State of Affairs abroad, and the ſeveral Intereſts they have to mind therein; their Agreement in Point of Trade ſeems to cement them, but their Emulation in regard of a Mediation, and in other Points, is as likely to keep them at a diſtance; nor is it at all probable they ever will, or can ſo far ſurmount their mutual Diſtruſts, as actually to take part on the ſame ſide. But in regard of their own Affairs, *Sueden* has gained ſo much from *Denmark* already, and the Intereſt of the Trading part of *Europe* is ſo much concern'd to hinder it from getting more, that being alſo inferior to *Denmark* by Sea it is not probable it will in many Years have any deſign of enlarging its Territories farther on

that ſide, tho' it has undoubtedly a longing Deſire to *Norway*, which would make it the ſole Maſter of all Naval Stores. And *Denmark* is ſo much weaker at Land, that *Sueden* has no reaſon to apprehend it, unleſs Domeſtick Confuſions do happen, which in all times *Denmark* has been ready to foment, and has frequently profited by them; and it is not very improbable, but it may, in not many Years have an opportunity of doing ſo again; for which reaſon eſpecially it is the Intereſt of *Sueden* to carry fair, and live at peace with *Denmark*.

In Point of Alliances the leſs *Sueden* can depend upon its Neighbours, the more careful it has been to entertain Friendſhip further from home, eſpecially with *France*; which firſt began about 150 Years ago between *Francis* the

the Firſt, and *Guſtavus* the Firſt, and ſubſiſted till of late Years, that the *Emperor*'s Party was thought more agreeable to the Nation's Intereſt, which it has accordingly eſpouſed.

The Friendſhip of *England* or *Holland*, or both, has ever been accounted indiſpenſibly neceſſary to *Sueden*, in regard of its Weakneſs by Sea; neither has *Sueden* hitherto engaged in any War, where both thoſe Nations were Parties: and if ſuch a Caſe ſhould happen, 'tis not to be doubted but *Sueden* would uſe all poſſible means to obtain a Peace; for that the Country cannot ſubſiſt without a quick Vent of its own Commodities, and continual Supplies of ſuch Neceſſaries, as it muſt receive from abroad, of which it is very unuſual to make any Proviſion before-hand, or lay up greater

Stores than what one Winter consumes.

CHAP. XVII.

An Extract of the Hiſtory of Sueden.

THE Original of the *Swediſh* Nations which their Hiſtorians aſcribe to *Magog*, Son of *Japhet*, whoſe Expedition thither they placed in the Year 88, after the Flood, is built upon ſuch uncertain Conjectures, as neither deſerves to be mention'd, nor credited any more than the Names of the Kings ſuppoſed to ſucceed him, invented by the Writers to fill up the Vacuities of thoſe dark Times, of which other Countries, more likely to have been firſt planted

planted, can give ſo little account; therefore tho' the Country might poſſibly have been early inhabited, yet nothing of certainty can be known of it, till the coming of *Othinus*, or *Woden*, who was driven out of *Aſia* by *Pompey* the *Great*, about Sixty Years before the Birth of *Chriſt*. From this *Woden*, who (as their Hiſtories report) conquer'd *Moſcovy*, *Saxony*, *Sueden*, *Denmark* and *Norway*; all *Northern* Nations have been ambitious to derive their Extraction; with him the *Heatheniſh* Religion, that afterwards prevail'd in the *North*, Witchcraft, and other like Arts were brought in; as alſo the Cuſtom of raiſing great heaps of Earth upon the Graves of Perſons of Note, and Engraving of Funeral Inſcriptions upon Rocks and Stones, which yet remain in all Parts of the Country.

To *Woden*, after his Death, Divine Honours were paid, as the God of War; and as the two firſt Days of the Week were named after the Sun and Moon, and *Tueſday* after *Tis* or *Diſa*, an ancient Idol, ſo *Wedneſday* had its Name from him, as *Thurſday* from *Thor*, and *Friday* from *Frigga*, which three laſt were long the chief Objects of the *Northern* Idolatry. The Succeſſion of the Kings after *Woden* is full of confuſion; the Nation being ſometimes parcell'd into ſeveral little Kingdoms, ſometimes into two, *Sueden* and *Gothia*; often ſubject to *Denmark* or *Norway*, and ſometimes Maſter of thoſe Countries, as alſo of others more diſtant, where the *Goths*, that forſook their Native Soil, happened to plant themſelves; but when, or on what particular occaſions, they made thoſe Migrations

tions, is not certainly known, nor how long they had been abroad when they firſt began to infeſt the *Roman* Empire, about 300 Years after *Chriſt*.

That the *Saxons*, who were called into *England* about the Year 450, were originally a Colony of *Goths* is conjectured from the Agreement of their Language, Laws and Cuſtoms. But that the *Suedes* and *Goths*, joyned with the *Danes* and *Norwegians* in their Invaſion of *England*, about the Year 800, we are aſſured from our own Hiſtorians, that expreſly mention them, with the Character of Barbarous and Pagan Nations, as they then were; and the ſame may be concluded from the many *Saxon* Coyns, that are frequently found in *Sueden*, and in greater variety, than in *England*, which ſeem to have been the *Dane* Gilt, or Tri-

Tribute that the Nation then paid.

The *Normans* alſo, who about that time ſettled in *France*, were in part Natives of this Country, ſo that *England*, together with the Miſeries that accompanied thoſe Conqueſts, owes a great part of its Extraction to theſe People.

But to paſs on to Times of more certainty, it was about the Year 830, that the Emperor *Ludovicus Pius* ſent *Anſgarius*, afterwards Arch-biſhop of *Hamburgh*, to attempt the Converſion of the *Suedes* and *Goths*, who at firſt had little or no Succeſs; but in his ſecond Journey, ſome Years after, he was better received; and baptized the King *Olaus*, who was afterwards martyred by his Heathen Subjects, and offered in Sacrifice to their Gods; nor did Chriſtianity become the general Religion of

Sueden

Sueden till about a Hundred Years after, when it was planted by the *Engliſh* Biſhops formerly mentioned, ſent for thither by another *Olaus*; in whoſe time the Kingdom of *Sueden*, and that of *Gothia* were united, but became afterwards to be ſeparated again, and continued ſo near Two Hundred Years; when they were again joyn'd, on Condition that the Two Royal Families ſhould ſucceed each other by turns, as they did for the ſpace of One Hundred Years, but not without great Diſorders, and much Blood ſhed.

This occaſion of Quarrel, which ended in the Extirpation of the *Gothick* Family, was ſucceeded by another; for *Waldemer*, Son of *Berger*, *Jerle* or *Earl*, who was deſcended from the Royal Family of *Sueden*, being at that time choſen King, by his Father's Advice, 1250.

he

he created his Three Brothers Dukes of *Finland*, *Sudermanland*, and *Smaland*, with ſuch a degree of Sovereignty in their reſpective Dukedoms, as enabled them to diſturb their Brother's Government; who was at laſt forced to reſign the Kingdom to his Brother
1279. *Magnus*, which he left to his Son
1290. *Berger*, who lived in continual Diſſention with his Two Brethren, *Erick* and *Waldemar*, till he took them Priſoners, and famiſh'd them to Death, upon which he was driven ont of the Kingdom, and ſucceeded by Duke *Erick*'s Son
1319. *Magnus*, who was perſwaded to ſuffer his Son *Erick* to be choſen King of *Sueden* joyntly with himſelf, as his other Son *Haquinus* was of *Norway*.

Both theſe Brothers made War upon their Father, who thereupon cauſed the Eldeſt to be poyſoned,

ed, the other *Haquinus*, being reconciled to his Father, married *Margaret*, the Daughter *Waldemar*, King of *Denmark*, in whose Person the Three *Northern* Kingdoms were afterwards United. This *Magnus* being deposed for his ill Government made place for his Sister's Son

Albert, Duke of *Mechlenburgh*, 1363.
of whom the *Suedes* were soon weary, and offered the Kingdom to *Margaret*, whose Husband *Haquinus* had left her *Norway*, and her Father *Denmark*. King *Albert*, therefore being beaten in a pitch'd Battle, was taken Prisoner by this

Margaret, who succeeded him, 1388.
and enacted the *Union* of the Three Crowns into a Law; which was ratified by the States of those Kingdoms, but proved much to the Prejudice of *Sueden*, and to the

the Advantage of *Denmark*, which People had always the Art or Luck to get their King's Favour, and render the *Suedes* and *Norwegians* ſuſpected; conformable to Queen *Margaret*'s Advice to her Succeſſor.

Sueden *ſhall feed you*, Norway *ſhall cloath you*, *and* Denmark *ſhall defend you.* At her requeſt the Three Nations choſe her young Nephew

1396. *Erick* of *Pomerania*, reſerving to her ſelf the Government during his Minority which ſhe out-lived, and had time to repent; at laſt ſhe died of the Plague, in the Year 1412. This *Erick* married *Phillippa*, the Daughter of *Henry* the 4*th.* of *England*: of her their Hiſtories relate, that *Copenhagen* being beſieged, and King *Erick* in deſpair retreating to a Monaſtery, ſhe took the Command of the City,

City, and beat the Beſiegers, but afterwards having in the King's abſence fitted out a Fleet that was unſucceſsful, at his return he ſo beat and abuſed her, that ſhe thereby miſcarried, and retiring into a Cloyſter died ſoon after.

The Oppreſſion the *Suedes* lay under from Strangers, and to whom the King committed the Government of Provinces, and the Cuſtody of all Caſtles, contrary to the Articles of the *Union*, made them at laſt throw off the Yoke, and renounce their Allegiance to King *Erick*, in whoſe place they ſubſtituted the General of the Kingdom, *Carl Knuteſon*; with the Title of *Protector*, which he held about Four Years, till they were perſwaded to accept

Chriſtopher of *Bavaria*, whom 1440.
the *Danes* and *Norwegians* had already choſen; his ſhort Reign gave

gave the *Suedes* new Diſguſts to the *Union*, ſo that upon his Death, they divided themſelves and choſe

1448. *Carl Knuteſon* to be their King, who had before been their Protector, and remains a memorable Example of the Viciſſitude of Fortune; for after he had Reigned Ten Years he was driven out by a *Daniſh* Faction, and retiring to *Dantzick* was reduced to great want.

1458. *Chriſtian* of *Oldenburg*, King of *Denmark* and *Norway*, ſucceeded him, and renewed the *Union* which was ſoon diſſolved; *Chriſtian* after a Reign of Five Years being turn'd out,

1463. *Carl Knuteſon* was reſtored to the Crown, which he held only Three Years, being over-power'd by a Faction of the Clergy, and forced to forſwear the Crown, and

and retire into *Finland*, where he again fell into want; upon his Depoſition his Daughter's Huſband

Erick Axelton was made Governour of the Kingdom, which was miſerably ſhattered by Factions, *of which the Biſhops were the greateſt Ring-leaders*; in Favour of *Chriſtian* of *Denmark*, whom they endeavoured to reſtore, but their Party being worſted,

Carl Knuteſon was the third time 1468.
received King of *Sueden*, and continued ſo till his Death, upon which

Steno Sture, a Noble Man of 1471.
ancient Family, was made Protector of the Kingdom, which he defended a long time againſt King *Chriſtian*, and his Succeſſor, to the Crowns of *Denmark* and *Norway*, but was at laſt forced to give place to

1497. *John*, who again reſtored the *Union* of the Three Crowns, but purſuing his Predeceſſors ſteps in oppreſſing the Nation, and imploying of Strangers, he was ſoon expell'd the Kingdom,

1501. And *Steno Sture* was again made Protector; and he dying,

1504. *Suanto Sture* ſucceeded in the ſame Quality. He had continual Wars with King *John* all the time of his Government, which at his Death was conferred on his Son

1512. *Steno Sture* the younger, who withſtood the *Daniſh* Faction which the Arch-biſhop of *Upſall* headed; till dying of a Wound he received in a Skirmiſh againſt the *Danes*,

Chriſtiern, or *Chriſtian*, the II. King of *Denmark* and *Norway*, was advanced to the Crown of *Sueden*, but behaved himſelf ſo tyrannically,

ly, and ſhed ſo much innocent Blood, eſpecially of the Nobility, which he deſign'd utterly to root out, that his Reign became intolerable, and the whole Nation conſpired againſt him under the Conduct of

Guſtavus the *Firſt*, deſcended from the ancient Kings of *Sueden*, whoſe Father had being beheaded, and his Mother had two Siſters impriſon'd by *Chriſtiern*: He was at firſt received Governour of the Kingdom, and two Years after had the Regal Dignity conferr'd on him; and as the *Danes* and *Norwegians* had alſo expell'd King *Chriſtiern*, who had married *Charles* the 5*th*'s Siſter, and repaired to the Imperial Court for Succour, which he could not obtain to any purpoſe, being upon his Landing in *Norway* defeated, and taken 1521.

Priſoner; in which State he continued to his Death: Therefore *Guſtavus* was freed from all further trouble, on that account; and at liberty to redreſs the Diſorders of the Kingdom, which were great: His firſt Conteſt was with the *Clergy, who had been the Authors of much Confuſion in former Reigns*; to prevent which for the future, he took all occaſions to diminiſh their Revenues, reuniting to the Crown all the Lands that had been given to the Church the laſt Hundred Years; which together with the *Reformation* of Religion diſquieted the firſt Ten Years of his Reign, and occaſioned frequent Commotions: Which being over, the remainder of his time paſs'd without any diſturbance at home, or Wars abroad; ſave only with *Lubeck*, and ſometimes with *Moſcovy*.

Hi-

Hitherto the Kingdom of *Sueden* had for ſeveral hundred Years been *Elective*, but was at this time made *Hereditary* to the *Male* Iſſue of *Guſtavus*, in a right Line of Succeſſion; with reſervation, that in default of ſuch Iſſue the *Right* of *Election* ſhould return to the Eſtates. *Guſtavus* by his three Wives had four Sons, and ſeveral Daughters; his eldeſt Son, *Erick*, was to ſucceed to the Crown; *John* was made Duke of *Finland*; *Magnus*, Duke of *Oſtrogothia*; and *Charles*, Duke of *Sudermanland*; whereby thoſe Provinces were in a manner diſmembred from the Crown: An Error in Policy that *Sueden* has ſo oft ſmarted for, that they have ſince made ſolemn Reſolutions never to be guilty of it again; thus having in his Reign of Thirty ſix Years brought the

Kingdom into ſuch a flouriſhing Condition, as it had not ſeen in many Ages, and entail'd a Crown upon his Family, in which it ſtill continues: He left it to his Son

1559. *Erick*, who was thereby hindred from proſecuting his intended Voyage to *England*, with hopes to marry Queen *Elizabeth*: He Reigned Nine Years, Five of which he kept his Brother *John* cloſe Priſoner, upon Suſpicion of his deſigning to ſupplant him, as he finally did, but not before *Erick* his making a Peaſant's Daughter his Queen, and by ſeveral cruel and diſhonourable Actions had loſt the Affections of all his Subjects; ſo that he was without much difficulty depoſed, and condemned to a perpetual Priſon, where he ended his Life. Upon his

his Depoſition, the Crown came to

John III. notwithſtanding the States of the Kingdom had engaged their *future Allegiance* to King *Erick*'s Son, that he had by the Queen before Marriage. The War with *Moſcovy*, which began in King *Erick*'s time, about *Liefland*, was carried on by this King with good Succeſs, and ſeveral Places taken; to which not only *Muſcovy*, but *Poland* and *Denmark* alſo pretended; for as the *Knights Templers* had tranſferr'd their Right to *Liefland* upon *Poland*; ſo the *Muſcovites* had agreed to deliver it to *Magnus*, Duke of *Holſtein*, the King of *Denmark*'s Brother; in conſideration of a ſmall Acknowledgement to the *Czar* of *Muſcovy*, as the Supream Lord: So that Four 1568.

great Nations claimed this Country at once, which poſſibly might facilitate the *Swediſh* Conqueſts.

This Prince's Reign was diſquieted by his Attempt to alter the *Eſtabliſh'd Religion*, in which he made conſiderable progreſs; but was ſometimes in doubt, whether he ſhould endeavour an *Union* with the *Latin* or *Greek* Church; to the former of which he at laſt declared himſelf; but could not prevail with his Subjects to follow his Example. He kept his Brother *Erick* Ten Years in Priſon, and then thought it neceſſary for Safety to have him poyſon'd, according to the Advice which it is ſaid the States of the Kingdom had given.

His Brother *Magnus* did not Miniſter any Cauſe of Suſpicion, being diſturbed in his Brain, and un-

uncapable of having any Deſign.

But his Brother *Charles* gave him ſufficient occaſion of Jealouſie, and it was not without great difficulty, that things were kept from coming to an extremity between them.

After a Reign of Thirty ſix Years King *John* died by the Fault of an ignorant Apothecary, there being then no Phyſicians in *Sueden*; to him ſucceeded his Son

Sigiſmund, whoſe Mother was *Catharine*, a Princeſs of the *Jagellan* Family in *Poland*: To which Crown, *Sigiſmund* had been Elected Five Years before his Father died: His Brother *John* was in his Minority; ſo that his Uncle *Charles* had the Government of the Kingdom, till *Sigiſmund* came from 1592.

from *Poland* to be Crowned in *Sueden*; which was not till about a Year after his Fathers deceaſe. His Coronation was retarded ſome Months, by the Difficulties that aroſe about the Points of Religion, and the Confirmation of Priviledges: All which were at laſt accommodated, and the King after a Years ſtay in *Sueden*, returned to *Poland*, leaving the Kingdom in great Confuſion, which daily encreas'd.

1598. So that at his return ſome Years after, he was met by his Uncle at the Head of an Army, which defeated the Forces the King brought with him. Whereupon an Accomodation being patched up, he returned to *Poland*, leaving his Uncle to manage the Government. Which Poſt he held, till the States being weary of *Sigiſmund*;

mund, and having in vain brought him to conſent to his Son's Advancement to the Crown, which his Brother *John* alſo refuſed: They conferr'd it upon his Uncle *Charles* the *9th*, who thereby became engaged in a War with *Poland*, as he was already with *Muſcovy*; the Scene of both being 1604.
in *Liefland*, where the *Suedes* loſt Ground, till the Affairs of *Muſcovy* fell into ſuch Confuſion, that they were forced to give *Sueden* a Peace, that they might have its Aſſiſtance againſt the *Poles* and *Tartars*; which was granted upon Terms very advantageous for *Sueden*, and ſent under the Conduct of Count *Jacob de la Gardie*, who did *Muſcovy* great Service; but the *Muſcovites* failing to perform the Conditions ſtipulated, he broke with them, and took the City

City of *Novogrod*, and diſpoſed the Inhabitants, with others of the Neighbouring Provinces, to deſire Prince *Charles*, (*Phillip*, the King's younger Son) to be their *Czar*; which was ſo long in treating about, that the Opportunity was loſt.

The Year before this King's Death a War broke out with *Denmark*; in which State he left the Kingdom to his Son

1611. *Guſtavus Adolphus*, who having ended the War with *Denmark*, by the Mediation of *James* the 1ſt, of *England*, applied himſelf to that in *Leifland* and *Muſcovy*: To the Borders of which he ſent his Brother, not with an Intention to procure his Eſtabliſhment in that Throne, which he rather aimed at for himſelf; But to induce the fortified Places adjacent to

Finland

Finland and *Liefland*, to accept of *Swediſh* Gariſons in Prince *Charles Phillip*'s Name, which ſucceeded in a great meaſure, till another was choſen *Czar*; with whom, after various Succeſs on both ſides, a Peace was concluded by the Mediation of *England* and *Holland*; by which *Sueden*, beſides part of *Liefland*, got the Country of *Ingermanland*, and the Province of *Kexholm*, with ſeveral fortified Places, and wholly ſhut out the *Muſcovites* from the *Eaſt* Sea.

The *Poliſh* War, that had ſome ſhort Intervals of Truces, was of a longer continuance, and no leſs beneficial to *Sueden*; which, in the Courſe of it, took *Riga*, and all other Places the *Poles* had in *Liefland*, except only one Fort, and thence carried the War into *Pruſſia* with the like Succeſs, till

at

at laſt by the Interpoſition of *England*, *France*, &c. a Truce was concluded for ſix Years.

This gave *Guſtavus* leiſure to engage in the *German* War, to which he was both provoked by the *Emperour*, and encouraged by others. The Year following he began that Expedition, and on *June* 24. arriving in the Mouth of the *Odor*, he Landed his little Army that conſiſted of Sixteen Troops of Horſe, and Ninety two Companies of Foot, making about Eight Thouſand Men, which, beſides other Additions, was augmented by Six Regiments of *Engliſh* and *Scotch* under Duke *Hamilton*, but more by the King's incredible Succeſs.

Upon

Upon his firſt approach *Stetin* and all *Pomerania* fell into his Hands. The Year following having joyned the *Elector of Saxony*, he gave the *Emperour*'s Army under General *Tilly*, a total Overthrow near *Liepſig*: Whence he traverſed *Franconia*, the *Palatinate*, *Bavaria*, &c. till the next Year at the Battle of *Lutzen* (where his Army was again victorious) he was treacherouſly kill'd, (as 'tis believed) by *Francis Albert*, Duke of *Saxon Lawemburgh*; not only to the great Joy of the *Imperialiſts*, but of *France* and other his Friends, who envied and feared the farther Encreaſe of his Greatneſs. By his Death the Crown fell to his Daughter,

Sept. 7. 1631.

Chriſtiana

Chriſtina, a Princeſs of Five Years old, in whoſe Favour her Father had gained the States of the Kingdom to alter the *Hereditary Union*, as 'tis ſtiled, which reſtrained the Succeſſion to the *Male* Line. In her Minority the Chancellor *Axel Oxenſtiern* had the Direction of the *Swediſh* Affairs in *Germany*; where the War was proſecuted with variety of Succeſs, but much to the Advantage of *Sueden*; which was poſſeſt of above a Hundred fortified Places, and had an Army exceeding 100000 Men, when Prince *Charles Guſtave* was Generaliſſimo. A little before the Concluſion of the Treaty of *Munſter*, by which *Sueden* obtained for its Satisfaction, the Dukedoms of *Pomerania*, *Bremen* and *Verdeu*, with the City of *Wiſmar*, and a Right of Seſſion,

to

to Vote in the Diets of the *Empire*, and Circle of *Lower Saxony*, as alſo the Sum of five Millions of Crowns. The Queen had for ſeveral years entertained a Reſolution to quit the Crown, which ſhe at laſt effected, and after having procured Prince *Charles Guſtavus*, to be declared *Hereditary Prince* (whom the States would gladly have had the Queen married, but neither he nor ſhe were inclined to it) with much Solemnity ſhe diveſted her ſelf of the Crown, and releaſed her Subjects from their Allegiance, which the ſame day was conferred upon Jan 6. 1654.

Charles Guſtavus, who the year following made War upon *Poland*, to revenge the Affront done to him, in proteſting againſt his Admiſſion to the Crown; his Progreſs at firſt ſurprized not only

Poland, but alarm'd all *Europe*; for in three Months time he had taken all *Pruſſia*, except *Dantzick*; a great part of *Lithuania*, the Cities of *Warſaw*, *Cracaw*, and other places in the *Greater* and *Leſſer Poland*. Moſt of the People of thoſe Provinces ſwearing Allegiance to him, as being Deſerted by King *Caſimir*, who was fled into *Sileſia*, but this Career of Proſperity did not long continue; the firſt Conſternation being over, the *Poles* were as ready to fall from him, as they had been to embrace his Party; beſides, the *Emperour*, *Moſcovy*, and *Holland*, became his Enemies, as alſo *Denmark*; which gave the King of *Sueden* an honourable Occaſion of quitting *Poland*, where he could not long have ſubſiſted; having therefore left his Brother, Prince *Adolph*, Governour of *Pruſſia*, he

he haſtened to *Denmark*, which he ſoon reduced to a neceſſity of Buying Peace at the price of the Provinces of *Schonen*, *Halland*, and *Bleaking*, which was concluded in the following Spring, but broke out again in few Months.

The King of *Sueden* unexpectedly Landing an Army the following Summer in *Seelandt*, where he took the Caſtle of *Cronenburgh* at the Entrance of the *Sound*, but had not the like Succeſs at *Copenhagen*, which was beſieged and ſtormed in vain; and being the following Summer relieved by a Fleet from *Holland*, the Siege was turn'd into a Blockade, and continued ſo till *Charles Guſtave*, having by his bold and ſucceſsful Attempts in ſix years time drawn upon *Sueden* the Enmity of almoſt all *Europe*, was taken away by a Feaver, and left the Crown to his Son 1658.

1660. *Charles* XI. the preſent King, whoſe Miniſters obtain'd Peace with *Poland*, *Moſcovy*, the *Emperour*, *Brandenburgh*, *Holland*, and *Denmark*, upon Honourable Conditions, which continued till it was interrupted by the late War; of which an Account has been given already.

F I N I S.

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